

**RETURN TO THE FIELD AT STORM KING ART CENTER:
LIVE MEDITATIONS, READINGS, AND PERFORMANCES INSPIRED BY
MARTHA TUTTLE'S SITE-SPECIFIC INSTALLATION,
A STONE THAT THINKS OF ENCELADUS**

The program series by Tuttle and poet Gabriel Kruis will be presented on-site at Storm King on August 28 with a live musical performance by The HawtPlates and JJJJerome Ellis

OUTLOOKS: MARTHA TUTTLE
On view until November 8, 2021



Martha Tuttle, *A stone that thinks of Enceladus* (2020). Photos: Jeffrey Jenkins. Courtesy of Storm King Art Center.

New Windsor, NY, August 24, 2021—Beginning August 28, 2021, Storm King Art Center will host new installments of *Return to the Field*, an ongoing series of meditations, conversations, poetry, and performances inspired by New York-based artist Martha Tuttle's site-specific installation at the Art Center, *A stone that thinks of Enceladus*.

First launched as a virtual program in 2020, *Return to the Field* will now be held on-site at Storm King, as originally intended, activating the physical space within and around Tuttle's exhibition. Facilitated by Tuttle and poet Gabriel Kruis, the program invites creatives to respond to Tuttle's project through a multidisciplinary array of approaches—from poetry to musical and movement performance.

The on-site program will lead on August 28 with a performance by The HawtPlates and JJJJerome Ellis, with additional guests planned for the fall. The performance trio comprising Jade Hicks, Justin Hicks, and Kenita Miller-Hicks, The HawtPlates specialize in conceptual vocal works drawn from folk and vernacular musical forms—including blues, rock, hip hop, rhythm and blues, mantra, and gospel. The HawtPlates will be joined on the occasion by JJJJerome Ellis, a poet and composer whose diverse body of work—from contemplative soundscapes using saxophone, flute, dulcimer, electronics, and vocals to theatrical explorations involving live music and storytelling—explores blkness, disabled speech, and music as forces of refusal, possibility, reparation, and healing.

A stone that thinks of Enceladus marks Tuttle's first major outdoor work and solo museum presentation. The project opened at Storm King in summer 2020 as the eighth iteration of the Art Center's *Outlooks* program, which invites an emerging to mid-career artist to present a large-scale, temporary outdoor project in the Art Center's landscape. *Outlooks: Martha Tuttle* will be on view through November 8, 2021.

Organized in partnership with the curatorial, education, and operations teams at Storm King, *Return to the Field* is part of the Art Center's "Wanderings & Wonderings" initiative, inviting artists to share new and imaginative perspectives on Storm King.

Tuttle's *A stone that thinks of Enceladus* addresses the historical practice of mapping, as well as the search for meaning within a landscape, from both an emotional and physical perspective. The work comprises a series of human-made stone stacks or cairns, built of boulders gathered at Storm King, and nearly two-hundred molded glass and carved marble stones—which the artist created by hand during the winter and spring of 2020, and meticulously placed upon and around larger boulders from Storm King's site.

Through these carefully placed groupings, Tuttle invites viewers to recognize their own physicality both on and within land—at Storm King and in the Hudson Valley, specifically—by creating a point of contact between human and non-human energy. The work's poetic title is drawn from the artist's meditation on scale: the glass stones in the sculpture reflect light not unlike Enceladus, Saturn's icy moon and the most reflective object in our solar system.

Tuttle's project, which unfolds across eight acres of a large, rolling field at the southern end of Storm King's property, builds upon the artist's ongoing preoccupation with place and our relationship to materiality—engaging directly with Storm King's landscape to further these investigations into the unification of natural forms with the energy and touch of the human hand. Visitors are invited to walk among the boulders that form the installation, providing space for reflection and contemplation. An accompanying sign adjacent to the installation features written meditations on vastness, location, and the geologic scale of the Hudson Valley. The reverse side of the sign contains an image of Enceladus taken by the Cassini spacecraft.

Tuttle said: "*A stone that thinks of Enceladus* takes formal inspiration from cairns (stone stacks) which are most commonly known as way-finding tools. Because cairns are often collectively built, it always made sense to bring in other voices to the sculpture. My collaborator Gabe Kruis and I invited a program of artists, poets, and performers whose work responds to and reframes both place and landscape in deep-feeling ways. This live performance literally returns us to the field after a year of virtual programming, and I couldn't be more excited to share and absorb space and sound with visitors, within and with the landscape of Storm King itself."

The *Outlooks* program constitutes a critical component of the Art Center's mission to support artists and encourage the development of their ideas and practices. Previous *Outlooks* exhibitions at Storm King has featured works by Jean Shin (2019), Elaine Cameron-Weir (2018), Heather Hart (2017), Josephine Halvorson (2016), Luke Stettner (2015), Virginia Overton (2014), and David Brooks (2013).

Prior installations of *Return to the Field* include guest presenters Adjua Gargi Nzinga Greaves, Kite aka Suzanne Kite, and Charmaine Lee and are available to experience online at stormking.org/marthatuttle.

Outlooks: Martha Tuttle is organized by Storm King Senior Curator Nora Lawrence. The exhibition is made possible by generous lead support from the Ohnell Charitable Lead Trust. Support is also provided by Roberta and Steven Denning. Artist Talks are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

-ENDS-

***Return to the Field* with The HawtPlates and JJJJerome Ellis**
Saturday, August 28
5:00PM – 6:00PM

Ticketing

This program is free with admission to Storm King. Advanced tickets are required for all visitors (including Members). To arrive on time for the performance, we recommend purchasing tickets for a 2PM, 3PM, or 4PM timeslot. Visit stormking.org/tickets to reserve.

About Martha Tuttle

Martha Tuttle, a multidisciplinary artist born in Santa Fe, New Mexico, has shown her work throughout the U.S. and abroad. Natural materials of wool, silk, and dye are worked by hand, each resulting piece having undergone an immaterial transfer of energy through Tuttle's physical and meditative touch. The artist's relationship to materiality is revealed further by the inclusion of small "stones," both actual and cast-polished metal, and of fabricated steel weights. These elements add another layer of visual incident and mark-making, to further open a dialogue of possibility and substance, light and weight. Overall, the unification of immaterial energy with material form results in constructed canvases and loosely hanging paintings that vibrate with a felt, unseen force.

Solo and two-person exhibitions include Geukens & DeVil, Antwerp; Luce Gallery, Turin; Tilton Gallery, New York; and Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago. Tuttle has been in residence at the Rauschenberg Foundation, Captiva, FL; the Sharpe-Walentas Studio Program, Brooklyn, NY; the UCross Foundation, Clearmont, WY; and A-Z West, Joshua Tree, CA, among others. Tuttle earned her MFA in Painting from The Yale School of Art in 2015 and her BA at Bard College. She lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

About Gabriel Kruis

Gabriel Kruis is a New Mexican poet and educator living and writing in Brooklyn. He is co-founder and Development Director of Wendy's Subway Reading Room, and his work has been published in *A Perfect Vacuum*, *PEN Poetry Series*, *OmniVerse*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, *The Atlas Review*, and *Frontier Poetry*, among others. Kruis holds an MFA from Hunter College and was a fellow at the Fine Arts Work Center (2018-19). He is author of *Acid Virga* (Archway Editions, Nov. 2020).

About Storm King Art Center

Storm King Art Center is a 500-acre outdoor museum located in New York's Hudson Valley, where visitors experience large-scale sculpture and site-specific commissions under open sky. Since 1960, Storm King has been dedicated to stewarding the hills, meadows, and forests of its site and surrounding landscape. Building on the visionary thinking of its founders, Storm King supports artists and some of their most ambitious works. Changing exhibitions, programming, and seasons offer discoveries with every visit.

Instagram: @[StormKingArtCenter](https://www.instagram.com/StormKingArtCenter) | **Facebook:** [Storm King Art Center](https://www.facebook.com/StormKingArtCenter) | **Twitter:** @[StormKingArtCtr](https://twitter.com/StormKingArtCtr)

2021 Season

April 7, 2021 – December 12, 2021

Opening Hours

Wednesday – Monday (closed Tuesdays)
10AM – 6:30PM

Member Mornings: Sundays 9AM – 10AM

Discounted Admission

Storm King is pleased to offer discounted admission for the 2021 season to the following visitors. Tickets using these discounts must be reserved by phone: 845.534.3115.

- Frontline healthcare professionals (doctors, nurses, hospital staff, EMTs, paramedics)
- Active military and their family via the Blue Star Program (May 15 – September 6 only)
- SNAP participants/EBT cardholders via Museums for All
- Storm King Partner School students, families, and educators

- Modern and Contemporary Reciprocal Membership Program (Mod/Co)
- American Association of Museum (AAM) Members
- International Committee of Museums (ICOM)
- Staff of other museums

Visitor Health & Safety

- All visitors, regardless of vaccination status, must wear a mask inside any indoor spaces (including the Museum Building, restrooms, and elevators) and whenever a 6-foot distance cannot be maintained.
- Some amenities remain on pause, including tram service and access to the on-site Museum Store.

Advance tickets are required. All ticket reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis and entry will not be permitted without an advance reservation. For the most up-to-date information on ticket availability, amenities, and hours, please visit stormking.org/visit.

Press Inquiries

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Press Visits

Advance reservations are required for all visitors to Storm King, including members of the media. Accredited members of the media may contact FITZ & CO to request a reservation. Please include your first and last name, phone number, media title and position, as well as details on any planned coverage as a result of your visit. If coverage is not currently planned, please provide some examples of recent, relevant articles as they appear in a media outlet or a valid press ID.