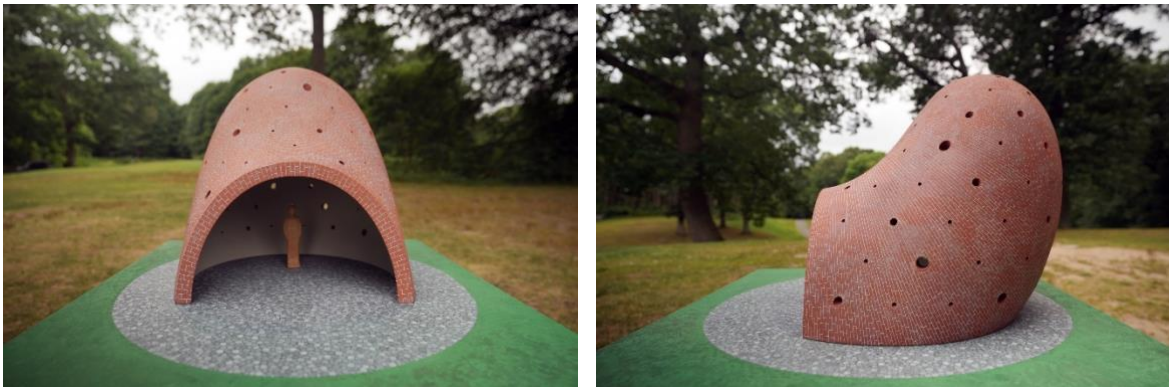


# STORM KING ART CENTER

## STORM KING ART CENTER ANNOUNCES LATEST COMMISSION FOR ITS PERMANENT COLLECTION: A SITE-SPECIFIC SCULPTURE BY MARTIN PURYEAR

The renowned sculptor will construct his first work in brick  
for Storm King's highest overlook

The permanent commission will open to the public in 2023,  
with an accompanying special exhibition



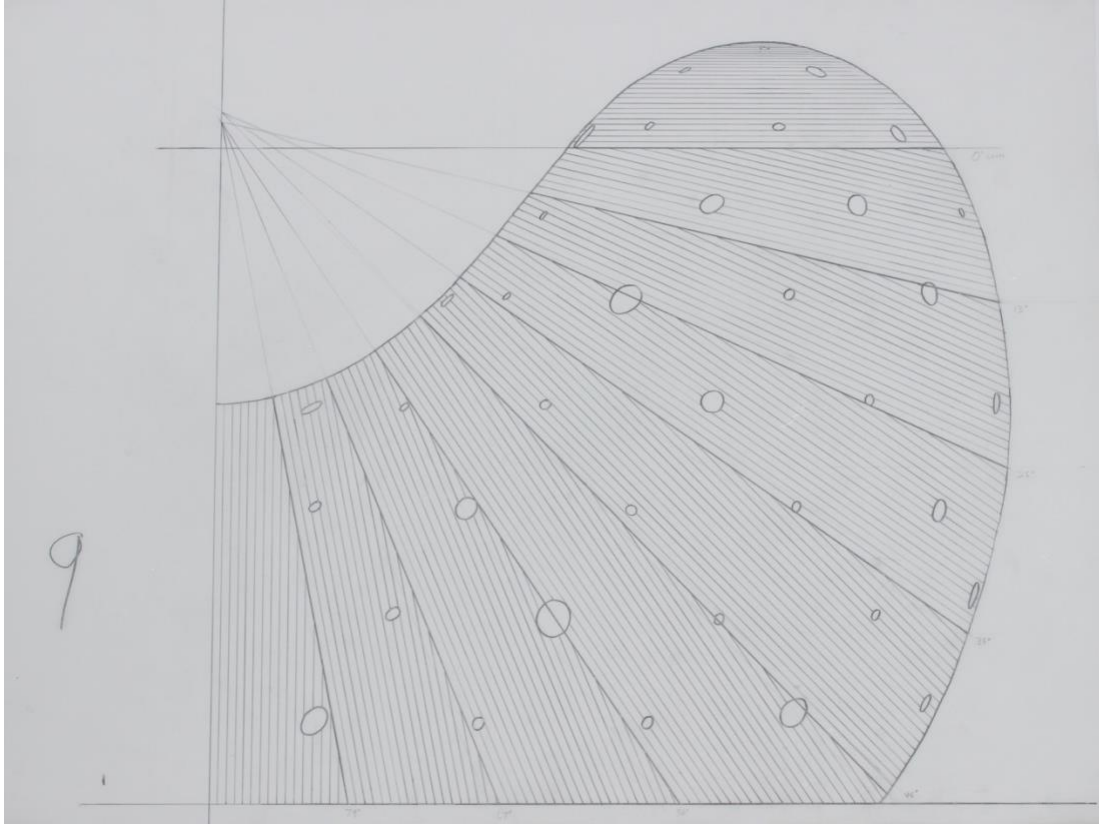
Scale model of permanent commission for Storm King Art Center. ©Martin Puryear Studio. Photo by SandenWolff.

*New Windsor, NY, September 23, 2021*—Storm King Art Center announces a new, site-specific commission for its permanent collection by preeminent American sculptor **Martin Puryear**. The 20-foot-high structure will occupy a clearing at the edge of the museum's North Woods. Set to open to the public in 2023, the commission will be inaugurated in tandem with a special exhibition that focuses on the artist's work in outdoor sculpture.

Consisting of two layers of brick using thin-shell masonry techniques, the sculpture will mark the artist's first use of brick, recognizing brickmaking as a once-primary industry in the Hudson Valley and referencing the brick structures that dot the local landscape. The new work for Storm King will challenge viewers' conceptions of this ubiquitous material: rather than straight lines and solid walls, the sculpture will curve inward and upward, opening to allow entry from one side while producing an overhanging swelling form on the opposite end.

The 19-foot-diameter work will be shaped by a series of nine segments: at the open end of the structure, the first of these segments emerges visually and structurally as an arch, set perpendicular to the ground plane. Each successive segment is set against its neighbor at an ever more acute angle, until the bricks of the final segment are laid level to the ground and form a dome at the summit of the artwork. The sculpture emerges from an exploration of traditional brick forms, with references to the bottle kilns at Stoke-on-Trent; Nubian vault-building techniques, which the artist witnessed in Mali; and a former armory on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, where the brick masonry seemingly defies gravity. To achieve this complex use of brick, Puryear is working closely with several trusted collaborators in structural engineering and architecture.

Looking north at the sculpture from Museum Hill, the metaphorical heart of Storm King, visitors will encounter a commanding, seductive shape—brick red against the green of spring and summer, the rust of fall, and the white of winter. From the middle distance, the sculpture may emerge as a shelter or destination; at close range, the structure may appear both artwork and building, to be considered formally and experientially.



Sketch of permanent commission for Storm King Art Center. ©Martin Puryear Studio. Courtesy of Storm King Art Center.

**John P. Stern**, President of Storm King, said: “We are thrilled to announce Martin Puryear’s site-specific commission for our permanent collection. His sculpture for Storm King will be uniquely engaging—not just in material and scale, but also as a work that reveals itself to people in long views, up close, and from within as they walk inside and gaze back onto the landscape. Martin is one of the most important sculptors working today, and this ambitious project will have an enduring impact on generations of visitors to come.”

Puryear, who will be 81 in 2022 when the project begins construction, remarked on the significance of the commission for Storm King: “This work is especially significant for me because it will be a permanent artwork in Storm King’s extraordinary landscape. And I’m taking the idea of permanence seriously—the materials I’m proposing to work with, the methodology I’m trying to employ, and the history of the material speaks to something timeless.”

Visitors will be invited to explore the interior of the sculptural form, which progresses from a nine-foot arched opening with a vista of Storm King’s expansive topography, to a high dome. The shell-like form will be punctured by an array of circular openings of different sizes, offering visitors narrower views out of the work of art. Standing in a particular point under the dome, visitors will be able to see directly through all these openings to the surrounding landscape, accumulating fragmentary glimpses of sky, trees, and other Storm King sculptures.

**David R. Collens**, Director and Chief Curator at Storm King, added: “With each commissioned sculpture, we have a history of working very closely with artists—having a dialogue with them about what they want to do, trusting their ideas and process, and giving them the freedom to work. Martin is an artist I’ve had the pleasure to know for many years. He’s one of the great artists of our time, and I’m proud that Storm King is able to collaborate with him to realize a sculpture that breaks new ground in his distinguished practice.”

Puryear’s work will join a historic series of site-specific commissions for Storm King’s permanent collection, including works by Sarah Sze, Maya Lin, Andy Goldsworthy, Isamu Noguchi, and Richard Serra, among others. The news of Puryear’s commission comes ahead of Storm King’s Annual Gala on Saturday, September 25, 2021,

where Puryear, alongside VIA Art Fund, will be honored with the Storm King Award. The Award is given in recognition of meaningful contributions in the fields of visual arts, landscape, and nature conservation.

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### About Martin Puryear

Over five decades, Martin Puryear has created a body of work that defies categorization, creating sculpture that examines identity, culture, and history. Departing from the impersonal and machined aesthetic of Minimalism, (the dominant sculptural movement of the artist's formative years), Puryear's work combines modernist abstraction with methods of making inspired by traditional trades and crafts. With shapes informed by the natural world and by ordinary objects, and made by direct engagement with materials such as wood, wire, tar, granite, bronze, cast iron, steel and granite, his work is quiet but deliberately associative, informed by his extensive travels and his endless curiosity about the world, and drawing on a huge and varied reserve of images and ideas.

Martin Puryear (b. 1941) was born in Washington, DC. His first one-person exhibition was in 1968, and since then he has exhibited throughout the world, including public commissions in Europe, Asia, and the United States. His work was featured in Documenta 9, and in 1989 he represented the United States at the São Paulo Bienal, where he was awarded the festival's Grand Prize. In 2007 the Museum of Modern Art in New York organized a survey of his work, which traveled to the National Gallery of Art in Washington, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth. In 2015 the Art Institute of Chicago organized an exhibition of fifty years of his works on paper, which traveled to the Morgan Library and Museum in New York and the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington. Puryear received a MacArthur Foundation award in 1989 and a National Medal of Arts from President Obama in 2011. In 2019 he represented the United States at the 58th Venice Biennale.

### About Site-Specific Commissions for Storm King's Permanent Collection

Storm King's site-specific commission program for its permanent collection has been active since 1972, with the commission of David von Schlegell's *Untitled*, followed by Robert Grosvenor's *Untitled* in 1974, and Patricia Johanson's *Nostoc II* in 1975. In 1977, Storm King's Founding Chair, H. Peter Stern, invited Isamu Noguchi to create a sculpture for the collection. The result was Noguchi's *Momo Taro*, completed in 1978. Other highlights of site-specific commissions for the permanent collection include Richard Serra's *Schunnemunk Fork* (1991), Andy Goldsworthy's *Storm King Wall* (1997-98), Maya Lin's *Storm King Wavefield* (2007-08), and Sarah Sze's *Fallen Sky* (2021).

### 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](#) | **Facebook:** [Storm King Art Center](#) | **Twitter:** @[StormKingArtCtr](#)

### 2021 Season

April 7, 2021 – December 12, 2021

### Hours

Wednesday – Monday (closed Tuesdays)  
10AM – 5:30PM

Member Mornings: Sundays 9AM – 10AM

## **Tickets**

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](http://stormking.org/visit).

## **Discounted Admission**

Storm King is pleased to offer discounted admission for the 2021 season to the following visitors. Tickets using these discounts must be requested via the Free Admission Request Form at [stormking.org/tickets](http://stormking.org/tickets).

- 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.

## **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.