



## CENTENNIAL SCULPTURE PARK RIBBON CUTTING ATTRACTS ARTISTS, DIGNITARIES Wendell Castle, Albert Paley Honored by UR at May 22 Ceremony



ROCHESTER, NY, May 28, 2013 — Artists, dignitaries and honored guests gathered Wednesday, May 22 for the dedication of the Memorial Art Gallery's Centennial Sculpture Park.

University of Rochester President Joel Seligman, MAG Director Grant Holcomb and MAG Board President James Durfee presided over the 2 pm ribbon cutting ceremony, which included remarks by Rochester Mayor Thomas Richards and Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks. [video of ribboncutting](#)

All four artists commissioned to create site-specific installations—Wendell Castle, Jackie Ferrara, Tom Otterness and Albert Paley (bios attached)—were at the ceremony, and two of them, Castle and Paley, received 2013 Eastman Medals presented by President Seligman. [video of presentation](#)

Named for George Eastman, the awards recognize individuals whose achievements and service embody the University of Rochester's highest ideals.

PICTURED (FROM LEFT): Joel Seligman, James Durfee, Wendell Castle Albert Paley at the presentation.

### About Centennial Sculpture Park

The strategic location of Centennial Sculpture Park, along with the removal of portions of decades-old wrought-iron fencing, has opened up the Memorial Art Gallery grounds for the public to enjoy and made the Gallery a more vital part of the neighborhood. Today, it has truly become what director Grant Holcomb envisioned in his 2010 announcement of the project—a neighborhood space “reminiscent of the old town square.”

Three works commissioned for the park—Wendell Castle's *Unicorn Family*, Jackie Ferrera's *Marking Crossways* and Tom Otterness's *Creation Myth*—have already been installed in front of the Gallery. The fourth, Albert Paley's *Soliloquy*, will be installed this summer near the Goodman Street entrance, in time for the Gallery's 100th anniversary in October 2013.

The park also showcases works from the MAG collection by such noted artists as Deborah Butterfield, Todd McGrain, Nancy Jurs, Beverly Pepper, George Rickey, Tony Smith and Mary Taylor.

Fittingly, park construction coincided with the latest phase of ARTWalk, a public initiative to transform the Neighborhood of the Arts into an interactive outdoor museum. The ARTWalk Project has received over \$5 million in federal funding secured by Rep. Louise Slaughter, including a \$250,000 grant through the National Endowment for the Arts specifically for the Centennial Sculpture Park.

### Memorial Art Gallery website

[mag.rochester.edu](http://mag.rochester.edu)

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## CENTENNIAL SCULPTURE PARK ARTISTS Site Specific Installations

WENDELL CASTLE, Scottsville, NY

*2013 EASTMAN MEDAL*

*Unicorn Family* (2013)

Gift of the Feinbloom Family

During more than five decades as a sculptor and furniture maker, Rochester's own Wendell Castle has been called a "trailblazer," "an American phenomenon," "a leading figure in American craft" and "the father of the art furniture movement." But his commission for Centennial Sculpture Park is something entirely new.

"Since I'm known more for my furniture than sculpture," says the artist, "I decided to create an outdoor living room." Twenty-two feet in diameter, this "gathering area" consists of a cast iron table, three chairs and 13-foot LED lamp.

It's not the first time MAG has showcased Castle's work, which is well represented in the permanent collection. In 1990, the Gallery hosted *Furniture by Wendell Castle*, a major retrospective organized by the Detroit Institute of Arts. And from 2004–2006, the Gallery explored all phases of his prodigious career in the installation *Wendell Castle in Rochester*.

Castle's numerous awards and honors include three honorary doctorates, a Gold Medal from the American Craft Council, and a 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Arts and Cultural Council for Greater Rochester.

JACKIE FERRARA, New York, NY

*Marking Crossways* (2013)

Marion Stratton Gould Fund

Jackie Ferrara describes what she does as "creating places.... I look for ways to integrate different kinds of information, sometimes apparent, sometimes subtle, but always intending to offer an experience of unfolding discovery."

Ferrara is known for richly patterned paved spaces that are designed to enhance their natural and architectural settings. Her many public works include the Castle Clinton Tower and Bridge in New York City's Battery Park; Meeting Place in the Seattle Convention and Trade Center; an acre of intricately tiled flooring in Pittsburgh International Airport; installations for the Walker Art Museum in Minneapolis and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; and Terrace, at UC San Diego.

For MAG, she has designed multiple pathways, including a serpentine red and orange brick walk ("Path of Colors") that connects the park gateway at Goodman and University to the main Gallery entrance. There, a grid of granite pavers frames brick bands that spell out "Memorial Art Gallery" and "University of Rochester" in Morse code, which is also used to spell out the primary and secondary colors along the Path of Colors. Geometric "cameos" animate the landscape.

TOM OTTERNESS, Brooklyn, NY

*Creation Myth* (2012)

Maurice R. and Maxine B. Forman Fund

One of the leading figures in public art, Tom Otterness is known for narrative works that are at once light-hearted and socially pertinent. He has completed major outdoor commissions in the US, Canada, Germany and the Netherlands. He has also created site-specific installations for parks, playgrounds, and such unconventional venues as a Texas hayfield and Manhattan's 14th Street subway station.

Otterness's site-specific work for MAG consists of a gateway, sculptor's studio with work in progress, and amphitheater. Titled *Creation Myth*, it tells the story of an artist attempting to bring an artwork to life. "I was inspired by different creation myths like Pygmalion, Golem and Pinocchio," says the artist, who adds his own twist by making the sculptor female.

Scattered throughout the installation and entry plaza are more than a dozen small bronze sculptures. Some symbolize the sculptor's work, some are simply enjoying the park, and two represent historical champions of women's rights—Rochester's own Susan B. Anthony and her friend Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

ALBERT PALEY, Rochester, NY

**2013 EASTMAN MEDAL**

*Soliloquy* (coming August 2013)

Gift of the Cameros Family and Ann Mowris Mulligan, with additional support from Bank of America Charitable Foundation, FullMeaSure, the Herdle-Moore Fund, the Rubens Family Foundation, the Estate of Susan Eisenhart Schilling and the Clara and Edwin Strassenburgh Fund

Rochester sculptor Albert Paley has earned an international reputation for his ability to manipulate cold, hard metal into organic, seemingly impossible forms. Over a career spanning more than four decades, he has completed more than 60 monumental commissions for sites from Washington DC to Houston to Los Angeles. Most recently, he was invited to create 13 monumental sculptures for an outdoor sculpture exhibition opening in June along Park Avenue in New York City.

In 1995 Paley became the first metal sculptor to receive the coveted Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Institute for Architects, the AIA's highest award to a non-architect.

Paley's work is well represented in the MAG collection and was the subject of the 2010 retrospective *Albert Paley in the 21st Century*, organized by the Gallery. His site-specific work for Centennial Sculpture Park is a 25-foot polychrome stainless steel sculpture that will rise beside the Goodman Street entrance. When installed, it will be one of two works by Paley in the park: a 2000 commission, *Millennium Bench*, was recently reinstalled near University Avenue.

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## CENTENNIAL SCULPTURE PARK RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

### Quotes for Press Use

“In dedicating this park on the original campus of the University of Rochester, we celebrate the University’s longstanding commitment to the life of our community. We are pleased as well to be part of a collaboration with the City of Rochester that strengthens the connection between the University’s art museum and the culturally diverse neighborhood that surrounds it.”

*Joel Seligman, President, University of Rochester*

“The new Centennial Sculpture Park, with its fusion of poetry (Poets Walk), Rochester history (Story Walk) and the visual arts, not only transforms the grounds of the Memorial Art Gallery but offers this community yet another beautiful and significant park to enjoy.”

*Grant Holcomb, Mary W. and Donald R. Clark Director, Memorial Art Gallery*

“The Memorial Art Gallery’s new Centennial Sculpture Park will be a wonderful addition to our Neighborhood of the Arts in Rochester. I’ve been proud to support the ARTWalk Extension Project because we know how art can add value to a community. It keeps home values high, generates economic activity by bringing tourists to our area, and provides residents with a sense of pride in their community. Rochester has a rich tradition of creativity and artistic expression, and I hope this new project will encourage further investment in the arts in our great city.”

*Louise M. Slaughter, U.S. Representative (NY-25), who as Co-Chair of the Bipartisan House Arts Caucus has secured over \$5 million in federal grants for the ARTWalk Project and a \$250,000 grant specifically for the Sculpture Park*

“The new Centennial Sculpture Park at the Memorial Art Gallery is a beautiful addition to the neighborhood and our city. In line with the mission of the ARTWalk Extension Project—an outdoor museum designed to link the arts centers and public spaces within the Neighborhood of the Arts—the Centennial Sculpture Park continues this connection, enhancing the landscape and adding to the visual appeal of the neighborhood. Congratulations to the University of Rochester and the Memorial Art Gallery in celebrating 100 years.”

*Thomas Richards, Mayor, City of Rochester*

“This wonderful new Sculpture Park will certainly serve as a symbol of Monroe County’s deep appreciation for creativity and ingenuity. I have no doubt that each one of these unique sculptures will continue to foster a spirit of pride in the historic Neighborhood of the Arts, and in the City of Rochester, for many years to come.”

*Maggie Brooks, Monroe County Executive*

“Along with my colleagues, I’ve long hoped for the reinvigoration of the MAG grounds and the opportunity to open them up to the community. I would like to thank all those who have made that possible—donors, artists, staff, neighbors, and consultants near and far. Every time I approach the grounds, or walk outside, my heart soars seeing expansive views integrated with marvelous artwork, newly commissioned as well as those that are old friends. Most of all, I am delighted to see Centennial Sculpture Park experienced by students, passers-by, tourists, neighborhood residents, and people of all descriptions. It is a fitting tribute to MAG’s founding mother, Emily Sibley Watson, who sought to offer the opportunity to experience art to all of Rochester.”

*Marjorie B. Searl, Chief Curator, Memorial Art Gallery*