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Photo by Timothy Schenck

HIGH LINE ART PRESENTS

SHEILA HICKS

HOP, SKIP, JUMP, AND FLY: ESCAPE FROM GRAVITY

A LARGE-SCALE, VIBRANT FIBER INSTALLATION AT THE WESTERN RAIL YARDS

MAY 2017 – MARCH 2018

ON THE HIGH LINE AT THE WESTERN RAIL YARDS

New York, NY (May 4, 2017) – Presented by Friends of the High Line, High Line Art is pleased to announce a new High Line Commission by American artist Sheila Hicks. The work, titled *Hop, Skip, Jump, and Fly: Escape from Gravity*, is a large-scale installation spanning approximately 200 meters at the Western Rail Yards, beginning at 30th Street and 11th Avenue. The installation will be on view from late May 2017 through March 2018.

For over 50 years, American artist Sheila Hicks has redefined the boundaries of fiber as a medium, creating a distinctive body of work that falls between the fields of fine art, craft, design, and architecture. Having studied at the Yale University School of Art under the tutelage of Josef Albers, a modern master of art education and color theory, Hicks is a sculptor of color just as much as of fiber. Her works range in scale from small *minimes*—weavings no larger than a half-sheet of letter paper—to immersive indoor and outdoor architectural environments composed of lavish color and texture. In 1957, Hicks was awarded a Fulbright scholarship which provided her the opportunity to travel to Chile, marking the beginning of a transformative lifelong practice of teaching, research and art-making throughout South America, Mexico, South Africa, Morocco, and India, documented via weavings, writings, and photography.





For her High Line Commission, Hicks draws inspiration from the many kinetic elements that dance around the High Line: the ballet of construction vehicles at the Rail Yards; the multitudinous interwoven layers of construction mesh that cover buildings, scaffolding, and streetscapes; unfinished architectural lattices; and lace of hanging crane cables. Her vibrant installation comprised of twisting tubes of various types of colored fiber will crawl along the rails at the Western Rail Yards, surprising and delighting passerby.

“We’re thrilled to present Hicks’s first artwork in a public park, which will enchant adults and children alike visiting the High Line,” says Cecilia Alemani, Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Director and Chief Curator of High Line Art. “Drawing from the varying textures, heights, and shapes of the park and its surroundings, Hicks captures the element of play in her colorful installation which will squiggle up, down, and around this unique section of the High Line. We’re especially excited to see how the installation changes with the rotating backdrop of the four seasons.”

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Sheila Hicks (b. 1934, Hastings, Nebraska) lives and works in Paris, France. Recent solo exhibitions have been presented internationally at venues including the Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, Nebraska (2016); The Hayward Gallery, London, United Kingdom (2015); Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France (2014); and the TextielMuseum, Tilburg, The Netherlands (2014). Her work has been featured in international exhibitions including the Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2014); Glasgow International, Glasgow, Scotland (2016); The Hangzhou Triennial of Fiber Art, Hangzhou, China (2016); and the 57th Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy (2017). Sheila Hicks is represented in the United States by Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York.

ABOUT HIGH LINE ART

Presented by Friends of the High Line, High Line Art commissions and produces public art projects on and around the High Line. Founded in 2009, High Line Art presents a wide array of artwork including site-specific commissions, exhibitions, performances, video programs, and a series of billboard interventions. Curated by Cecilia Alemani, the Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Director & Chief Curator of High Line Art, and produced by Friends of the High Line, High Line Art invites artists to think of creative ways to engage with the uniqueness of the architecture, history, and design of the High Line and to foster a productive dialogue with the surrounding neighborhood and urban landscape. For further information on High Line Art, please visit art.thehighline.org.

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ABOUT FRIENDS OF THE HIGH LINE

Friends of the High Line raises 98% of the High Line’s annual budget. Owned by the City of New York, the High Line is a public park maintained, operated, and programmed by Friends of the High Line, in partnership with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation.

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