

New Commissioned Sculptures Being Installed on The Greenway by Street Artist Aakash Nihalani

The artworks are part of 2017's Playful Perspectives Exhibit

December 14, 2017 – BOSTON, MA – The Rose Kennedy **Greenway Conservancy** (rosekennedygreenway.org) today announced the installation of a new public art commission. New York-based artist **Aakash Nihalani** is today installing the first of two sculptures on The Greenway, the final artworks installed as part of the 2017 year long curatorial theme of **Playful Perspectives**.

Nihalani's playful sculptures, jointly entitled **Balancing Act**, depict tilting and toppling blocks caught in a state of suspended animation. **Balancing Act II**, installed December 14, 2017, depicts haphazard blocks precariously piled up, seemingly just a nudge away from collapse. The sparring undercurrent of structure versus disorder in both works reflects the contrast of The Greenway against the surrounding urban landscape, as well as the delicate relationship between nature and industrialization in our world today. In **Balancing Act I**, which will be installed in January 2018, a tower of six cubes appears to fall over as the middle block is pulled out of alignment. This center block serves as an invitation to the viewer to become an active participant; by posing with their hands on the sculpture, they become the catalyst for the impending narrative. The works are located on The Greenway in the Fort Point Channel Parks between Summer and Pearl streets.

"Nihalani reinvents our shared environment and public spaces through the use of the simplest of forms: the rectangle, square and the line," said Greenway Public Art Curator Lucas Cowan. "Aakash has a unique perspective in creating unexpected and sometime implausible situations that turn the passersby into active participants."

With past use of a variety of mediums, from masking tape to metal, Nihalani specializes in creating [minimalist geometric forms on two-dimensional planes that simulate 3D interactive experiences](#). Exploiting the malleability of human senses, Aakash's site-specific artworks create playful interactions with the viewer, provoking surprising and humorous moments that interrupt the routine of our everyday life.

Playful Perspectives is The Greenway's exhibition of large-scale, site-specific commissioned works by artists with rising careers whose works playfully and delightfully expose the vulnerability of one's sense of perspective. These works manipulate visual perception through the use of scaled objects and optical illusions, blurring the boundaries between art and everyday life, and between expectation and reality. Nihalani's new works will join four already on display on The Greenway: *Spaces Of Hope*, [painted by artist Mehdi Ghadyanloo](#), the fifth Greenway Wall mural at Dewey Square Park; *Make and Take* by Chris Templeman, an [in-park 3D-printer running 24 hours a day in Chinatown Park to manufacture over 2017 tiny plastic roosters](#) to celebrate the Chinese Year of the Rooster; *We The People II*, [painted by local artist Mia Cross](#), telling the story of Boston's Leather District through the eyes of locals; and *Ways of Wood* [by Daniel Ibanez of Margen-Lab](#) that tells the story of the log milling process. The Greenway recently de-installed two



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MEDIA CONTACT: Keelin Caldwell; 617-603-7737;
KCaldwell@RoseKennedyGreenway.org

works, [The Meeting House](#) by Mark Reigelman and [Far from this setting in which I now find myself](#), by Meredith James that were staples of public interactions and photographable moments on The Greenway throughout 2017.

“The Greenway has become a place where the public is invited to interact with contemporary art,” said Jesse Brackenbury, Executive Director for the Greenway Conservancy. “With this installation of playful sculptures, park visitors will enjoy art year-round and be encouraged to get outside this winter to see how snowfall and the winter landscape change this piece.”

This installation, like all Greenway art, is paid for with grants, philanthropy, and other private funds. Major funding for the Conservancy’s contemporary art program is provided by the Barr Foundation, The Boston Foundation and The National Endowment for the Arts.

About The Greenway

The Rose Kennedy Greenway, a roof garden atop a highway tunnel, is a contemporary public park in the heart of Boston. The non-profit Greenway Conservancy maintains, programs, finances, and improves the 1.5-mile Greenway on behalf of the public. The Greenway welcomed a record 1.38 million visitors in 2016 for the Greenway Carousel, events, Wi-Fi, and Mobile Eats food trucks, plus millions more visitors who enjoyed the fountains, plazas, and gardens. The Conservancy has won numerous awards, including for our organic landscape care and park programming.

The Conservancy brings innovative and contemporary art to Boston through free, temporary exhibitions. Conservancy art commissions have won four prestigious awards in the past five years from the Americans for the Arts’ Public Art Network.

About Aakash Nihalani (www.aakashnihalani.com)

Aakash Nihalani was born in 1986 in Queens, New York and is currently living and working in Brooklyn. He received a BFA from New York University in 2008. Nihalani’s sculpture, painting, and street art playfully transform environments, creating the illusion of 3-D geometric platforms and objects. Working in a fluorescent palette, Nihalani creates temporary designs in public spaces and interiors using paper tape and cardboard, and paints patterned grids and geometric forms. Nihalani’s has been exhibited internationally and featured in a number of publications including: The New York Times, The Times of India, Vogue India and artinfo.com. He has been included in solo and group exhibitions throughout New York, Rome, New Delhi, and London.

###