

Greenway Conservancy Announces New Public Artworks by Acclaimed Artists Catalina Delgado-Trunk and Yinka Shonibare

Visitors welcomed to enjoy the free exhibits safely and responsibly

June 5, 2020 – Boston, MA – The [Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy](#) today announced the installation of a new artwork by Mexican-American master folk artist Catalina Delgado-Trunk and imminent installation of new artwork by renowned British-Nigerian artist Yinka Shonibare. Delgado-Trunk's [Global Connections: Mesoamerican Myths, the Domestication of Nourishment, and its Distribution](#) and Shonibare's *Wind Sculpture (SG) V* will be on display for one year and will join three other artworks currently on display on The Greenway.

“In this extraordinary time, when the public is longing to experience beauty and joy but few arts venues are able to be open, we think it is more important than ever to bring these world-class artists’ works into the park,” said Jesse Brackenbury, Greenway Conservancy Executive Director. “We welcome visitors to stroll the length of The Greenway, enjoying the artworks and the gardens, while respecting the public health guidelines as the Commonwealth reopens.”

Artist Catalina Delgado-Trunk is one of the foremost *papel picado* (cut paper) artists working today. With her Greenway commission, *Global Connections: Mesoamerican Myths, the Domestication of Nourishment, and its Distribution*, Delgado-Trunk invites viewers to the table of her cultural heritage, with its rich flavors and fantastical legends that resonate with contemporary debates about environmental stewardship, migration, and identity. She has drawn her imagery from a variety of pre-Columbian myths and arranged them to form a new narrative depicting the wondrous gifts of the earth and humanity’s role in maintaining the balance of nature. Her intricate *papel picado* has been photographed, enlarged to a monumental scale, and printed onto vinyl, which will be affixed to eight of The Greenway’s “Light Blades”, 30’-tall columns illuminated by color-changing lights, situated near the Rings Fountain at Milk Street. Her exhibition will be complemented by signage with historical interpretation.

In his artwork, British Nigerian artist [Yinka Shonibare](#) explores colonialism and post-colonialism within the contemporary context of globalization. The Conservancy has commissioned a new *Wind Sculpture (SG) V*, which will be exhibited in a contemplative garden on The Greenway, just north of Dewey Square. The 22’-tall sculpture features a new variation of Shonibare’s trademark batik that appears to harness the wind and freeze it in a moment of time. Batik, which we now regard as traditional African cloth, is based on Indonesian batik fabric first brought to Africa by Dutch traders in the 1800s. Throughout Shonibare’s work, the material serves as a metaphor for our contemporary cultures, which, like the “African” batik, are the result of centuries of cross-cultural exchange. By referencing both this hybrid fabric and the powerful yet invisible nature of wind, the work suggests that identity is always a richly layered and dynamic set of relationships, while evoking a sense of freedom, possibility, and optimism.

“The commissioned artists engage with a globalized world and its complexities,” said Lucas Cowan, Curator and Director of Public Art for the Greenway Conservancy. “These artworks help us think about issues of cultural identity, immigration, and interconnectedness.”

These two commissioned works have been in production for more than a year, and the Conservancy is pleased to be able to bring them to fruition despite significant financial challenges posed by the coronavirus to its operations. For over a decade, it has been the Greenway Conservancy’s mission to manage and care for The Greenway, and through its more than 40 commissions, the Conservancy has been a major player in a cross-sector movement to reinvigorate art in public spaces in the Commonwealth. At a time when the community most needs to experience the wonder and connection that the arts can provide, the Conservancy will continue to present captivating new works of art.

The two new artworks join three currently on display, plus Augmented Reality artworks. [A Mouse with Ears and Tail](#), on view on The Greenway at Essex Street, was commissioned from local artist Furen Dai as part of the Conservancy’s [annual zodiac animal series](#). Juan Travieso’s mural [Engulf](#), in the Lincoln Street Triangle on The Greenway, addresses the challenges brought by gentrification and climate change. In his monumental mural, Super A questions the social, political, and emotional systems that confine our freedom in [Resonance](#), at Dewey Square on The Greenway. The Conservancy’s [Augmented Reality \(AR\) exhibit](#) blends interactive digital elements into our real-world environments through the overlay of historical imagery and contemporary art responding to the ever-changing nature of what once was a major transportation corridor through downtown Boston. Through a curatorial partnership with Boston Cyberarts and Hoverlay, the Conservancy commissioned three prominent AR artists and historian Amy D. Finstein; the works may be viewed on The Greenway or in your own living room or backyard through the Conservancy’s [#BringTheGreenwayHome initiative](#). All exhibits are free to the public.

As the Commonwealth begins phased reopening, visitors are encouraged to unwind safely on the 1.5 miles of The Greenway. Winding from Chinatown to the North End, the park is a welcoming respite, with wide paths that allow visitors to enjoy the gardens; this Spring, more than 100,000 flowering bulbs have been on display, with alliums currently in peak bloom. The Greenway Conservancy has taken special precautions amidst the coronavirus, and encourages all visitors to practice physical distancing, good hygiene, and caution.

All Greenway public art is funded exclusively through competitive grants and private sources; the new installations received support from The Barr Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the New England Foundation for the Arts, Mabel Louise Riley Foundation, Robert and Doris Gordon, and Goulston & Storrs. 80% of the Conservancy’s annual budget comes from private sources; our [2019 Annual Report](#) and recent [public meeting materials](#) have more information about the Conservancy finances.

About Catalina Delgado-Trunk is a Mexican-American artist living in Albuquerque, NM. Growing up in Mexico, Catalina Delgado-Trunk developed a lifelong love of Mesoamerican cultural



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traditions, especially that of *papel picado* (cut paper). For two decades now, the artist has made cut-paper works that blend pre-Columbian stories and images with subjects from the contemporary world. Delgado-Trunk is inspired by the “culture of synthesis” that is Mesoamerica, with its mix of indigenous, European, Asian, and African influences. *Papel picado* is an embodiment of cross-cultural exchange; the popular folk art tradition originated when artists repurposed the delicate tissue paper used to wrap goods shipped from the Philippines to western Mexico, and across land to Veracruz. In her work, the artist celebrates the rich traditions of her heritage by condensing the complex stories of legend into readable images, bridging the divides that separate cultures.

About Yinka Shonibare MBE RA is a British-Nigerian artist living in the United Kingdom. His work explores cultural identity, colonialism and post-colonialism within the contemporary context of globalization. Shonibare was a Turner prize nominee in 2004, and was also awarded the decoration of Member of the ‘Most Excellent Order of the British Empire’ or MBE. Shonibare’s works are included in prominent collections internationally, including the Tate Collection, London; Victoria and Albert Museum, London; National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C; Museum of Modern Art, New York; National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; Moderna Museet, Stockholm; National Gallery of Modern Art in Rome and VandenBroek Foundation, The Netherlands.

About The Greenway and the Greenway Conservancy (www.rosekennedygreenway.org)

The Greenway is the contemporary public park in the heart of Boston. The Greenway welcomes millions of visitors annually to gather, play, unwind, and explore. The Greenway Conservancy is the non-profit responsible for the management and care of The Greenway. The majority of the public park’s annual budget is generously provided by private sources.

The Greenway Conservancy Public Art Program brings innovative contemporary art to Boston through free, rotating exhibitions, engaging people in meaningful experiences, interactions, and dialogue with art and each other. Over the past 7 years The Greenway has been awarded 8 Public Art Network Awards through the Americans for the Arts, placing the Greenway Conservancy in a preeminent position among nonprofits in the country. Past Greenway exhibitions can be viewed on [the Conservancy’s website](#).

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