

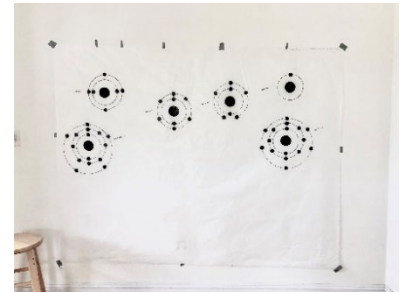
STORM KING ART CENTER

STORM KING ART CENTER ANNOUNCES 2023 EXHIBITIONS BY BEATRIZ CORTEZ, UGO RONDINONE, AND RA WALDEN ON VIEW MAY 20 – NOVEMBER 13, 2023

Beatriz Cortez will present three new and recent large-scale works,
the artist's first solo museum presentation on the East Coast

Ugo Rondinone will present *the sun and the moon*,
a pair of sculptures over sixteen-feet tall,
installed to frame views of the surrounding mountains

RA Walden will present *access points // or // alternative states of matter(ing)*
a multi-faceted site-specific installation
for the tenth iteration of the Art Center's *Outlooks* program



Mountainville, NY, April 5, 2023—Storm King Art Center, the world's leading museum for modern and contemporary outdoor sculpture, inaugurates its 2023 season with site-specific presentations of new and recent artworks by **Beatriz Cortez** (b. 1970, El Salvador), **Ugo Rondinone** (b. 1964, Switzerland), and **RA Walden** (b. 1987, England), opening May 20.

"This season's exhibitions are emblematic of what makes Storm King such an extraordinary place to present sculpture in conversation with the natural world," said **Nora Lawrence, Storm King's Artistic Director and Chief Curator**. "Our artistic program is built on a foundation of support for artists from a breadth of backgrounds and perspectives, at various stages of their career. I'm thrilled by all the ways our collaborations with Beatriz Cortez, Ugo Rondinone, and RA Walden have opened up new avenues of exploration and created vibrant opportunities for visitors to engage with art."

Beatriz Cortez: The Volcano That Left

Beatriz Cortez's exhibition *The Volcano That Left* presents new and recent large-scale works by the Los Angeles-based sculptor. With a vista from Storm King's Museum Hill across the Hudson Valley landscape, ancient, geologic, and cosmic structures will be positioned in dialogue with one another, reflecting the artist's journeying across multiple spatial and temporal realities. Working in steel, Cortez fashions each sculpture by hand, improvising to create undulating surfaces and organic forms that echo the surrounding landscape.

Eric Booker, Associate Curator at Storm King Art Center, said: "Beatriz Cortez's multidisciplinary practice explores the experience of migration through the lens of simultaneity, proposing other forms of existence that lie outside our definition. By placing her sculptures outdoors at Storm King, the exhibition highlights the integral role that nature plays within her work, shifting the notion of migration beyond the human. Over the course of the exhibition, the forces of time and motion will change how visitors experience the installation."

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Central to the exhibition is the monumental new work, *Ilopango, the Volcano that Left* (2023), a speculative reconstruction of an ancient volcano that erupted in the sixth century C.E. in what is now El Salvador. Cortez considers the ash deposited by the eruption, an event known as Tierra Blanca Joven, as part of the sacred Mayan underworld. The artist imagines how the eruption's resulting migratory patterns reverberate across time, drawing connection to events such as the movement of the Maya or her own migration amid the Salvadorian Civil War in 1989, a catastrophe which displaced a million people. The artist clarifies that a volcanic range unites her two homes, San Salvador and Los Angeles, as lava flows beneath these locations in a borderless underworld, illustrating nature's disregard for human boundaries.

This multidimensional movement is reflected in another new sculpture, *Ilopango, Stela Z, after Quiriguá (Contrary Warrior)* (2023), which evokes the form of a Mayan stela to depict the contemporary migration of Cortez's volcano. Standing eight feet tall, welded-steel glyphs appear across its surface, charting a non-linear chronology of the volcano's journey throughout its making and installation.

Cosmic Mirror (The Sky Over New York) (2022, reconfigured 2023) considers a non-human perspective. Scattered over the landscape atop Museum Hill and mirroring the constellation Orion above, the eleven-part work's relative position to the stars changes based on its geographic location. Relating to an ancient Olmec mosaic that was buried underground in order to be seen by the gods of the underworld, the site-specific work lies beyond human perception, only fully comprehended from above due to its scale.

The exhibition reminds us that migration is not defined by humans; it is a universal constant. In the fall, *Ilopango, the Volcano that Left* will leave Storm King in a performative departure, enacting the absence indicated in the work's title. The sculpture will journey by boat up the Hudson River to EMPAC in Troy, NY, for the exhibition *Shifting Center*. The volcano's journey, presented in partnership with EMPAC—Curtis R. Priem Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and the Vera List Center for Art and Politics at The New School, will feature a weekend of collaborative programming along the Hudson River.

In conjunction with the exhibition opening, Storm King will present a virtual public program with Beatriz Cortez on Tuesday, May 23.

Beatriz Cortez: The Volcano That Left is organized by Eric Booker, Associate Curator, with the assistance of Adela Goldsmith, Curatorial Assistant.

Ugo Rondinone: the sun and the moon

Set against Schunnemunk and Storm King Mountains in the Art Center's South Fields, Ugo Rondinone's *the sun and the moon*, comprises two 16-foot tall delicate circles fashioned from cast-bronze tree branches. The exhibition is built upon the principles of two celestial forces from the natural world: the sun and the moon. Like the cycle of day and night, these two archetypes represent contradictory, codependent, and complementary values.

One gilded and the other silver-leafed, *the sun* (2018) and *the moon* (2021) are installed parallel to one another on an east-west axis, underscoring the real-life rising and setting of their titular celestial bodies. The natural world has held a place of great importance for Rondinone's artistic practice across several decades. The artist found solace, regeneration, and inspiration in nature following the death of his partner Manfred Welsch of AIDS-related illness. Nature continues to inform Rondinone's practice as a space where the sacred and profane, the mystical and the mundane, vibrate against one another.

The presentation of these two sculptures will be accompanied by **two interactive artworks, *your age and my age and the age of the sun*** (2013–ongoing) and ***your age and my age and the age of the moon*** (2020–ongoing) in the Museum Building's main floor gallery. For this ongoing activation, Rondinone invites children to draw the sun and the moon, an exercise that evokes both the communal and the personal resonances of natural forms—though each child's drawing is unique, they are all starting from universal reference points: the same sun and the same moon. At Storm King, the gallery will feature contributions from students at schools in neighboring

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communities of Cornwall and Newburgh, and throughout Orange County. Children will also have the opportunity to contribute drawings through public programs in the spring.

Ugo Rondinone: the sun and the moon is organized by Nora Lawrence, Artistic Director and Chief Curator

Outlooks: RA Walden

RA Walden's site-specific installation will extend across several acres of Storm King's South Ponds for the tenth edition of Storm King's *Outlooks* program, which offers emerging and mid-career artists the opportunity to present a temporary large-scale outdoor project in the landscape. Titled *access points // or // alternative states of matter(ing)*, the project will depict the electron configurations of the six most common elements on earth: carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorous, and sulfur (CHNOPS). The configurations of these elements—thought to be necessary for life on any planet—will evoke the form of crop circles, here constructed from rings of perforated aluminum and laid across a grassy hillside. Considering landscape as body and body as landscape, Walden explores illness as a kind of visitation that leaves traces that are not always visible. Tapping into themes of science fiction and speculative fiction, the artist draws parallels between the phenomenon of crop circles, often considered to be hoaxes, and the experiences and access needs of disabled people, which are often met with disbelief, if not disdain, from the medical establishment and society.

Each electron configuration will be accompanied by a poetic text by Walden, interpretive audio recordings by artist-composer The Honorable Elizabeth A. Baker, and a viewing area from which visitors can reflect on the interconnectedness of all life-forms on a molecular level. The accompanying texts and recordings will be available through signage, audio, and via Storm King's digital guide on the Bloomberg Connects app.

Throughout the exhibition, Storm King will present a series of public programs in collaboration with The Honorable Elizabeth A. Baker, and herbalist, artist + organizer Remy of GOODWITCH.

Outlooks: RA Walden is organized by Nora Lawrence, Artistic Director and Chief Curator, and Adela Goldsmith, Curatorial Assistant.

Opening September 2023

Later in the season, Storm King will inaugurate a site-specific commission for its permanent collection by the artist Martin Puryear. The commission will be accompanied by an exhibition of Puryear's drawings and models for large-scale outdoor and public works from throughout his career.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Beatriz Cortez

Beatriz Cortez (b. 1970, San Salvador, El Salvador) is a multidisciplinary artist based in Los Angeles. Her work explores simultaneity, life in different temporalities, the untimely, and speculative imaginaries of the future. Cortez has had solo exhibitions at Nichols Gallery, Pitzer College (2022), Craft Contemporary Museum (2019), Clockshop (2018), and Vincent Price Art Museum (2016), among others. She has received numerous awards, including the Borderlands Fellowship by the Vera List Center for Art and Politics at The New School and ASU (2022-2024); Atelier Calder Artist Residency in Saché, France (2022); California Studio Manetti Shrem Artist Residency at UC Davis (2022); Longenecker-Roth Artist Residency at UCSD (2021); Artadia Los Angeles Award (2020); Frieze LIFEWTR Inaugural Sculpture Prize (2019); Rema Hort Mann Foundation Emerging Artist Grant (2018); and California Community Foundation Fellowship for Visual Artists (2016), among others. Cortez holds and MFA in art from the California Institute of the Arts, and a doctorate in Latin American literature from Arizona State University.

About Ugo Rondinone

Ugo Rondinone (b. 1964, Switzerland) is recognized as one of the major voices of his generation, an artist who composes searing meditations on nature and the human condition while establishing an organic formal vocabulary that fuses a variety of sculptural and painterly traditions. The breadth and generosity of his vision of

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human nature have resulted in a wide range of two-dimensional and three-dimensional objects, installations, videos, and performances.

Rondinone's work has been the subject of solo presentations at the Centre George Pompidou, Paris (2003); Whitechapel Gallery, London (2006); Art Institute of Chicago (2013); Rockbund Art Museum, Shanghai (2014); Palais de Tokyo, (2015); MACRO, Rome (2016); Carre D'Art, Nimes (2016); Berkley Art Museum, Berkeley, (2017); Bass Museum of Art, Miami (2017); Belvedere, Vienna (2021); Tamayo Museum, Mexico City (2022); Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt (2022); Petit Palais, Paris (2022); and The Musée d'Art et d'Histoire, Geneva (2023). In 2007 he represented Switzerland at the 52nd Venice Biennale. Forthcoming exhibitions include: The Städel Museum, Frankfurt and The Phillips Collection, Washington; and Fosun Foundation, Shanghai.

About RA Walden

RA Walden (b. 1987, England) is a transdisciplinary artist whose work centers a queer, disabled perspective on the fragility of the body. Their practice spans sculpture, installation, video, and printed matter, all of which is undertaken with a socially engaged and research-led working methodology. Walden is interested in our ability and failure to navigate physicality, interdependency and vulnerability both communally and individually; understanding world-building not as a visionary tool for an imagined future, but as an embodied methodology for the now. Walden has had recent solo exhibitions at Hau4, Berlin (2022); Kunstinstituut Melly, Rotterdam (2021); and Nars Foundation, New York (2019), among others. Residencies include La Becque: Switzerland, Shandaken: Storm King, Wysing Arts Centre: UK and Hebbel am Ufer: Berlin.

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.

stormking.org

#StormKing

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

Visitor Information

Hours

Monday: 10AM–5:30PM

Tuesday: CLOSED

Wednesday–Friday: 10AM–5:30PM

Saturday–Sunday: 10AM–5:30PM

Member Mornings: Sundays at 10AM

Memorial Day through Labor Day: Extended summer hours on Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30PM close.

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 see stormking.org/visit.

Discounted Admission

Storm King is pleased to offer discounted admission for the 2022 season to the following visitors. Tickets using these discounts must be requested via the Free Admission Request Form at stormking.org/tickets.

- SNAP participants/EBT cardholders via Museums for All
- Active military and their family via the Blue Star Program (May 15 – September 6 only)
- Storm King Partner School students, families, and educators
- Modern and Contemporary Reciprocal Membership Program (Mod/Co)

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- American Association of Museum (AAM) Members
- International Committee of Museums (ICOM)
- Staff of other museums

Bloomberg Connects Digital Guide

The Storm King digital guide is available for free on the Bloomberg Connects cultural app. Make the most of your visit with interactive activities, audio and video commentary by artists and Storm King staff, suggested routes, and more—anywhere, anytime from on your mobile device. [Download the Bloomberg Connects app >](#)

Press Inquiries

Laura Schwarz / FITZ & CO / lschwarz@fitzandco.com / 212.637.1455
Elizabeth McNamara / FITZ & CO / emcnamara@fitzandco.com / 646.589.0926
Talia Trauner / FITZ & CO / ttrauner@fitzandco.com / 646.589.0945

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.

Program Credits

Storm King's 2023 Exhibitions and Education programs are made possible with major support from the Hearst Foundations, with lead support by Charina Foundation, Sidney E. Frank Foundation, with support also provided by Ronald and Sandra Kossar, The William and Elaine Kaplan Family Foundation, Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation, Windgate Foundation, and funded in part by The Helis Foundation, Terra Foundation for American Art, and Triad Foundation.

Storm King's 2023 season is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

Storm King's commission and exhibition by Martin Puryear are made possible by generous major support from Bloomberg Philanthropies, Bridgitt and Bruce Evans, Glenstone Foundation, Ohnell Family Foundation, the Hazen Polsky Foundation, Thomas A. and Georgina T. Russo, Ellsworth Kelly Foundation, and Margaret VB Wurtele.

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This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Photo Credits

Artist rendering of *Ilopango, Stela Z, after Quiriguá (Contrary Warrior)*, 2023 at Storm King Art Center. Courtesy of the artist and Commonwealth and Council.

Ugo Rondinone, installation view of *the sun*, Domaine des Etangs, Massignac, 2018. Courtesy of the artist and Gladstone Gallery. Photo by Arthur Pequin

Preparatory sketch for *access points // or // alternative states of matter(ing)* at Storm King Art Center. Photo by RA Walden