

STORM KING ART CENTER

STORM KING ART CENTER PRESENTS SOLO PROJECT BY TARYN SIMON WITH FOCUS ON DEMOCRACY, OPEN OCTOBER 6, 2024

Visitors are invited into a dynamic space for dialogue, reflection, and participation through a modern interpretation of the ancient Greek kleroterion



Taryn Simon, *Kleroterion*, 2024.
Courtesy the artist, Gagosian, and Almine Rech.
Installation view at Storm King Art Center, 2024. Photo by Eli Baden-Lasar

Mountainville, NY – October 6, 2024 — Storm King Art Center is pleased to present *Kleroterion*, a new project by **Taryn Simon**, on view from **October 6 through November 11, 2024**. Simon has imagined an election machine based on surviving archaeological fragments of the kleroterion, an ancient device from the beginnings of democracy in Athens.

To prevent corruption, all male citizens of Athens were given the opportunity to hold public office or sit on a jury through the unpredictable workings of a kleroterion. This instrument implemented a lottery system that ensured randomized selection of a winner. The integrity of a transparent election process was preserved by placing the kleroterion in public areas, where everyone could observe the proceedings.

At Storm King, Simon's interactive sculpture maintains this alliance between open space and good governance. Her mirror-polished monolith, made from cast resin, functions like a game. Visitors are invited to come together in a group of five and determine what power the winner will be granted. To activate the machine and its randomizing capabilities, participants select a colored chip and insert it into an empty slot, positioning themselves as a potential victor. A hand crank is turned to release four balls that funnel through the kleroterion's interior, knocking out all the chips except for the one belonging to a single winning individual.

Nora Lawrence, Storm King's Artistic Director and Chief Curator said, "Taryn Simon's *Kleroterion* elides natural space with civic space. Historically, as with ancient Greece's *kleroteria*, open space has facilitated transparency and the public's engagement in the democratic process. At Storm King, Simon's *Kleroterion* makes visitors aware that they are part of a collective, coming together with friends, family,

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and sometimes strangers to cast a series of votes. Simon's *Kleroterion*, with its unpredictable winner each round, also reminds that ours is not the only model for democracy; other manners of decision-making are possible and have been used throughout history."

Simon's sculpture demonstrates how randomized outcomes can counteract authoritarian forces in a nation, a small group, or a family unit. What if questions such as "Who decides what's for dinner?" and "Who decides if we go to war?" were determined by chance and the pull of a lever? *Kleroterion*—the presentation of which coincides with the presidential election season in the United States—asks what might be lost or gained through this process of randomized resolution and invites everyone to participate. The sculpture spotlights the ways that decisions are made and the dynamics of both a family and our political system.

Kleroterion is curated by Storm King's Artistic Director and Chief Curator Nora Lawrence, with Adela Goldsmith, Curatorial Assistant. Information about public programs related to the exhibition will be shared on stormking.org/calendar.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Taryn Simon

Taryn Simon directs our attention to familiar systems of organization—bloodlines, circulating picture collections, mourning rituals, ceremonial flower arrangements—making visible the contours of power and authority hidden within them. Incorporating mediums ranging from photography and sculpture to text, sound, and performance, her works are informed by research on and with institutions including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the International Commission on Missing Persons, and the Fine Arts Commission of the CIA. Her books and projects include *The Color of a Flea's Eye: The Picture Collection* (2013–2020), *A Cold Hole* (2018–2019), *Assembled Audience* (2018–2019), *An Occupation of Loss* (2016, 2018), *Paperwork and the Will of Capital* (2016), *Image Atlas* (2012), *A Living Man Declared Dead and Other Chapters, I–XVIII* (2008–2011), *Contraband* (2010), *An American Index of the Hidden and Unfamiliar* (2007), *Black Square* (2006–), and *The Innocents* (2000–2003). Her honors include the Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship in Photography (2001) and the 2017 Photo London Master of Photography award.

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, site-specific commissions, and groundbreaking temporary exhibitions under open sky. Since 1960, Storm King has been dedicated to stewarding the hills, meadows, and forests of its site and surrounding landscape and offering artists the opportunity to create some of their most ambitious works. Changing exhibitions, programming, and seasons offer discoveries with every visit.

Links

Website: stormking.org

Instagram: [@StormKingArtCenter](https://www.instagram.com/StormKingArtCenter)

Facebook: [Storm King Art Center](https://www.facebook.com/StormKingArtCenter)

X: [@StormKingArtCtr](https://twitter.com/StormKingArtCtr)

Visitor Information

Hours – through October 31

Monday: 10AM–5:30PM

Tuesday: CLOSED

Wednesday–Friday: 10AM–5:30PM

Saturday: 9AM–5:30 PM

Sunday: 10AM–5:30PM

Final entry for all visitors is 4PM

Hours – Starting November 3

Monday: 10AM–4:30PM

Tuesday: CLOSED

Wednesday–Sunday: 10AM–4:30PM

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Final entry for all visitors is 3PM

Member Mornings: Sundays, 9–10AM

Tickets

Advance tickets are strongly recommended. Onsite tickets are limited and available on a first come, first served basis. Members enjoy free, ticketless admission any time during open hours. For the most up-to-date information on ticket availability, amenities, and hours, please see stormking.org/visit.

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 >](#)

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