FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HIGH LINE ART PRESENTS

LANDSCAPE WITH PATH,
A PHOTOGRAPHY SERIES
ON BILLBOARDS NEXT TO THE HIGH LINE

ON VIEW JUNE, AUGUST, and OCTOBER, 2011

Rendering of Joel Sternfeld’s work on billboard. Courtesy of the artist and Luhring Augustine Gallery.

New York, NY (May 27, 2011) – High Line Art, presented by Friends of the High Line, is pleased to announce a new series of photographs as part of its public art programming for spring, 2011.

This series will present three photo-based projects on a large 25-by-75-foot billboard immediately adjacent to the High Line at West 18th Street. The images, by artists Joel Sternfeld, Robert Adams, and Darren Almond, will together explore the idea of “Landscape with Path.” Each billboard will remain on view for approximately one month each in June, August, and October, 2011. The exact exhibition dates are June 1 – 30; August 1 – 31; and October 3 – 31.

Joel Sternfeld photographed the High Line over the course of a year in 2000 – 2001. The images he shot of the space, before its conversion into a public park, show it as it was for many years: overgrown with wild plants, an untamed meadow-like space cutting through Manhattan’s West Side. These images were important catalysts in conveying the potential for the space as a public green space, and helped convert many people into supporters of the movement to save it from demolition.
Mr. Sternfeld was invited by Friends of the High Line to show one of these now iconic images as the first work in the series. He was also invited to select the other two artists to follow his project. As guest curator for the series, he came up with the theme of the “Landscape with Path,” selecting Robert Adams and Darren Almond to participate.

Robert Adams will be represented by a vintage image from 1978, *Nebraska State Highway 2, Box Butte County, Nebraska*. This image shows an empty country road, devoid of cars or any other human presence, with only a small gathering of leaves in the foreground to suggest activity. Darren Almond’s contribution to this series is to be announced soon.

Addressing the inspiration for the series, Joel Sternfeld explains:

> When I first went up on the High Line in 2000 I was exalted—and I was perplexed. How do you convey within the narrow frame of the still photograph the panoramic phenomenon of a railroad ruin covered with wildflowers and yet in the heart of New York City? How do you look to the sidewalks below and skyline above and visually hold it together in a way true to the experience?

Eventually a simple notion emerged: I would follow the faint path of usage that could be detected amongst the weeds and wildflowers. I would simply walk the High Line for the millions of New Yorkers who did not have the privileged access I had been granted.

In doing so I thought about the meanings of “path,” the metaphors of following a road. And I thought about the work of other artists who had made the experience of being out and about on the surface of the earth an important element in their work.

I have never looked at a Robert Adams photograph without being deeply stirred but the image that has an ineluctable hold on me is *Nebraska State Highway 2, Box Butte County, Nebraska*. And the relationship of memory and travel in the work of Darren Almond seems akin to movement in the time landscape that is the High Line.

Robert Hammond, Executive Director at Friends of the High Line, says “Josh (David) and I often think of Joel as being the third co-founder of Friends of the High Line. His now-iconic images of the High Line played a crucial role in helping the public understand the beauty and untapped potential of this amazing structure hidden in plain sight. We are tremendously excited that he is now bringing his unparalleled vision to this project. His notion of the path in the landscape captures not only the physical experience of the High Line, but the spirit of progress and metamorphosis it embodies.”

This same billboard was used by Friends of the High Line for the presentation of original photo-based artwork by Demetrius Oliver in September 2010. Oliver’s *Jupiter* remained on view for the period of one month, and was named among the “Best Art of 2010” by critic R.C. Baker in the *Village Voice*.

**About the Artists**

Joel Sternfeld (b. 1944) is known for his photographs of people and the American landscape. He has had solo exhibitions of his work in New York, Rome, Berlin, Lisbon, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, among other cities. He is the recipient of many honors, including the Citigroup Photography Prize; the Prix de Rome; Shifting Foundation Fellowship; Grand Prize Winner, Higashikawa Festival of Photography, Japan; Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship; National Endowment for the Arts Photographers Fellowship. He lives in New York City, and has taught photography at Sarah Lawrence College since 1985, guiding the next generation of accomplished artists.

Robert Adams (b. 1937) has been photographing the American West for more than 40 years. Adams's photographs emphasize the redemptive beauty of nature in the face of humans' widespread and unremitting
use of the land and focus on the frontier between the human and natural worlds. He wrote, early in his career, "The job of the photographer is not to record indisputable fact but to try to be coherent about intuition and hope." In 1989 the Philadelphia Museum of Art organized a retrospective of Adams's work, and his photographs were included in Documenta X, in 1997. The Yale Art Gallery, which holds Adams's complete body of work to date, has organized a new retrospective exhibition of his work that is currently on view at the Vancouver Art Gallery and will travel to several North American and European venues, including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Reina Sofia in Spain. Adams was awarded a MacArthur Foundation fellowship in 1994 and received the Hasselblad Foundation International Award in 2009. He is working on several new book projects, which will join more than twenty volumes of his photographs and writings, including the recently reprinted classics Denver, What We Bought, and Summer Nights, Walking. Adams lives and works in Astoria, Oregon.

Darren Almond (b. 1971) is interested in time, place, personal history, and collective memory. He makes sculptures, films, photographs, and works on paper based on his extensive travels, which often take him to remote locations—his film In the Between, 2006, which focuses on the symbolic nature of the highest train route in the world, was shot on location in China and Tibet. Almond has developed his own lexicon in photography, making extraordinary pictures using only the light of the full moon. Meantime (2000), his first exhibition at Matthew Marks Gallery, comprised a shipping container the artist had transformed into a functioning digital clock and filmed as it traveled across the Atlantic. His work has been exhibited at The Renaissance Society, Chicago; K21, Düsseldorf; the Venice Biennale; the Berlin Biennale; and Tate Britain, London. He was a finalist for the Turner Prize in 2005. Almond lives and works in London.

High Line Art
High Line Art is a program presented by Friends of the High Line that commissions innovative, temporary, and site-specific artworks to provide park visitors with a unique and enriching experience and introduce contemporary artists to a wide audience. More than 4 million visitors have come to the High Line since it opened in 2009.

Friends of the High Line
Friends of the High Line is the nonprofit conservancy working to build and maintain an extraordinary public park on the High Line. The organization raises the essential private funds to support more than 70 percent of the High Line’s annual operating budget and oversees the park’s maintenance and operations pursuant to a licensing agreement with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. The High Line is built on a 1.45 mile-long elevated freight rail structure constructed in the 1930s on Manhattan’s West Side. The first section of the park, which runs from Gansevoort Street to West 20th Street, opened in June 2009. The second section, which will run from West 20th Street to West 30th Street, will open in late spring of 2011.

Support
This High Line Art Commission is presented by Friends of the High Line and the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. High Line Art Commissions are made possible by Donald R. Mullen, Jr. This program is supported, in part, with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and from the New York State Council on the Arts, celebrating 50 years of building strong, creative communities in New York State's 62 counties. In-kind sponsorship for this series is provided by Edison Properties.

***

For more information on High Line Art and Friends of the High Line, please visit www.thehighline.org/about/public-art
MEDIA CONTACT:
Jeffrey Walkowiak and Ozgur Gungor
Blue Medium Inc.
T: +1 (212) 675-1800
F: +1 (212) 675-1855
jeffrey@bluemedium.com
ozgur@bluemedium.com

Kate Lindquist
Friends of the High Line
T: +1 (212) 206-9922
F: +1 (212) 206-9118
M: +1 (646) 259-2837
kate.lindquist@thehighline.org