FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HIGH LINE ART PRESENTS

SIMONE FORTI, HUDDLE

THIRD IN A SERIES OF HIGH LINE ART PERFORMANCES

BEGINNING IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS ALONG THE HIGH LINE ON
THURSDAY MAY 24, 2012 FROM 6:00 – 7:30 PM

New York, NY (April 2, 2012) – High Line Art, presented by Friends of the High Line, is pleased to announce that Simone Forti will re-stage Huddle, an iconic performance featuring intimate clusters of dancers positioned in various locations along the High Line on Thursday May 24, 2012, from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. Huddle is part of HIGH LINE ART PERFORMANCES, a new series that transforms the park into an open-air theater with performances on and around the High Line.

Simone Forti is an experimental dancer who began her practice in the 1950s. She was inspired by Anna Halprin, a pioneer in the post-modern dance movement, introducing improvisation in choreography at the Judson Dance Theater in New York,—an important venue in the evolution of modern dance and a place of congregation for many artists, dancers, musicians, and poets. Forti’s early performances included collaborations with Robert Whitman, Trisha Brown, Yvonne Rainer, and La Monte Young, among others.
For HIGH LINE ART PERFORMANCES, Forti will reenact *Huddle*, an experimental dance originally performed in 1961. This minimalist composition features a small group of dancers embracing each other tightly to form a single structural entity. One by one, each performer takes turns momentarily releasing from the mass and climbing over the top of the group, while the rest must improvise to keep the huddle intact and to determine who will be next to break away. The dancers’ improvisational movements will cause the huddle to move along the High Line, showing the elements of chance that are fundamental to the work of Simone Forti.

“Simone Forti is a legendary artist and dancer. She is part of a groundbreaking moment that bridged dance and visual art in a creative and inspirational way,” said Cecilia Alemani, the Donald R. Mullen Jr. Curator and Director of High Line Art. “I look forward to seeing her turn the High Line into an open-air stage for experimental dance.”

Simone Fort’s *Huddle* is the third presentation of HIGH LINE ART PERFORMANCES, a series of open-air performances on and around the High Line. *Huddle* will follow Alison Knowles’ iconic event *Make a Salad* on April 22 and Channa Horwitz’s enigmatic *Poem/Opera, The Divided Person* on May 17.

**About Simone Forti**
Simone Forti was born in Florence, Italy in 1935. She now lives and works in Los Angeles, CA. She came of age as a dancer in the 1950s during her study with Anna Halperin in San Francisco. In 1959 she moved to New York, where she studied with Martha Graham and Merce Cunningham. During this time she joined the Judson Church Dance Theater, and developed a series of happenings with her husband, Robert Whitman. Forti is also known for her musical collaborations in the 1960s and 1970s with La Monte Young and Yoko Ono. Forti has received the Lester Horton Lifetime Achievement Award from the Dance Recourse Center of Los Angeles, numerous fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as a Guggenheim Fellowship. She is an adjunct professor in the Department of World Arts and Cultures at the University of California Los Angeles, and continues to perform and teach workshops around the world.

**About High Line Art**
High Line Art commissions and produces public art projects that take place on and around the High Line. Founded in 2009, High Line Art has been showcasing a wide array of artworks including site-specific commissions, exhibitions, performances, video programs and a series of billboard interventions. High Line Art invites artists to think of creative ways to engage with the uniqueness of the architecture and design of the High Line and to foster a productive dialogue with the neighborhood and urban landscape. For more information, please visit [www.thehighline.org/art](http://www.thehighline.org/art).

High Line Art is presented by Friends of the High Line and the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. High Line Art is made possible by Donald R. Mullen, Jr, with additional support from Vital Projects Fund, Inc. High Line Art 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 with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

**About the High Line and Friends of the High Line**
The High Line is an elevated freight rail line transformed into a public park on Manhattan’s West Side. It is owned by the City of New York, and maintained and operated by Friends of the High Line. Founded in 1999 by community residents, Friends of the High Line fought for the High Line’s preservation and transformation at a time when the historic structure was under the threat of demolition. It is now the
non-profit conservancy working with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation to make sure the High Line is maintained as an extraordinary public space for all visitors to enjoy. In addition to overseeing maintenance, operations, public programming, and public art for the park, Friends of the High Line works to raise the essential private funds to support more than 90 percent of the park’s annual operating budget, and to advocate for the preservation and transformation of the High Line at the Rail Yards, the third and final section of the historic structure, which runs between West 30th and West 34th Streets.

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For more information about the High Line Art and please visit www.thehighline.org/art.

MEDIA CONTACT:
Ozgur Gungor and Henry Lyon
Blue Medium Inc.
T: +1 (212) 675-1800
F: +1 (212) 675-1855
ozgur@bluemedium.com
henry@bluemedium.com

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