



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Pier 54: Sharon Hayes, Women of the World Unite! they said., 2014. Photo by Liz Ligon. Copyright 2014 Sharon Hayes, Liz Ligon, and Friends of the High Line. Commissioned and produced by Friends of the High Line.

HIGH LINE ART PRESENTS

PIER 54

FEATURING LEONOR ANTUNES, ROSA BARBA, FRANCISCA BENITEZ, CAROL BOVE, N. DASH, LIZ GLYNN, SHARON HAYES, IMAN ISSA, MARGARET LEE, MARIA LOBODA, MARIE LORENZ, SHANA LUTKER, LIZ MAGIC LASER, JILL MAGID, MPA, VIRGINIA OVERTON, LEAH RAIN TREE, EMILY ROYSDON, LATOYA RUBY FRAZIER, AKI SASAMOTO, XAVIERA SIMMONS, MIKA TAJIMA, ANDRA URSUTA, SARA VANDERBEEK, ALLYSON VIEIRA, MARIANNE VITALE, AND ANICKA YI

PHOTOGRAPHS BY LIZ LIGON

NOVEMBER 6 – DECEMBER 13, 2014

EXHIBITION AT 120 ELEVENTH AVENUE AT WEST 20TH STREET

TUESDAY – SATURDAY, 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM

NOVEMBER 6, 2014 – JANUARY 14, 2015

HIGH LINE CHANNEL 14, ON THE HIGH LINE AT WEST 14TH STREET

DAILY, BEGINNING AT 4:00 PM

New York, NY (October 24, 2014) – Presented by Friends of the High Line, High Line Art is pleased to announce *Pier 54*, an exhibition conceived as a tribute to and a reaction against *Pier 18*, a legendary project organized by artist and curator Willoughby Sharp in 1971. For its original iteration, Sharp invited 27 artists to create an event or an action to take place on the abandoned Pier 18 in the Financial District of New York City. Artists responded in a variety of ways: some carried out performances, others created sculptures and installations or sent simple instructions for do-it-yourself works to be executed by someone else. All the events were photographed by





artists Harry Shunk and János Kender, and subsequently exhibited in photographic form at the Museum of Modern Art in the summer of 1971. Among the participants – who, in keeping with a largely gender-biased art world at the time, *happened* to be all male – were Vito Acconci, John Baldessari, Jan Dibbets, Dan Graham, Gordon Matta-Clark, Mario Merz, Allen Ruppberg, Richard Serra, William Wegman, and many others.

Both a re-enactment and an exercise in historical revisionism, *Pier 54* took place during the summer of 2014 on Hudson River Park's Pier 54 – a disused pier located at 11th Avenue and West 13th Street. The pier is visible from the High Line and preserves many historical memories and architectural vestiges of Manhattan's West Side, a neighborhood that has been swiftly transformed in the past decades. High Line Art invited 27 contemporary artists – this time all women – to realize projects that respond to the location and engage with the changing landscape of the waterfront.

The original *Pier 18* actions were never meant to be public performances: the various events and interventions were only staged for the camera and were documented by artist duo Shunk-Kender as a series of black-and-white photographs. The actions were recorded in a sequence of photographs to suggest the durational quality of these projects. Similarly, the events on *Pier 54* were not open to the public, aside from unsuspecting passersby. At times invisible, other times raucous and subtly aggressive, the works and actions forming *Pier 54* were captured by photographer Liz Ligon as a series of black-and-white photographic documentations, turning the actions themselves into a mysterious presence hidden in the fabric of the city.

High Line Art will present *Pier 54* in its first traditional exhibition mounted in a gallery located at 120 Eleventh Avenue in Chelsea. The exhibition will be on view November 6 – December 13, 2014, Tuesday – Saturday, 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM. A public opening will be held on November 6, 2014, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. The photographs will also be visible on High Line Channel 14 – located on the High Line in the 14th Street Passage – from November 6, 2014 through January 14, 2014, daily beginning at 4:00 PM.

“We are so thrilled to extend High Line Art to street level with our very first project taking place in Chelsea,” says Cecilia Alemani, the Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Curator & Director of High Line Art. “*Pier 54* perfectly embodies one of the goals of High Line Art – expand our program into the fabric of the city and acknowledge the artistic roots of a neighborhood that is in constant change. We feel very fortunate to have been able to work with such an extraordinary group of artists in one of the most unique places in our neighborhood.”

PRESS PREVIEW

A press preview will be held on Thursday, November 6, 2014, from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM at 120 Eleventh Avenue. RSVP to ashley.tickle@thehighline.org by Tuesday, November 4, 2014.

SUPPORT

Major support for *Pier 54* comes from Teiger Foundation and Dorothy Lichtenstein.

Major support for High Line Art comes from Donald R. Mullen, Jr. and The Brown Foundation, Inc. of Houston, 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 New York 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.

Special thanks to Hudson River Park Trust for the use of Pier 54.

In-kind support for *Pier 54* is provided by the Haddad Family. Additional in-kind support is provided by Blick Art Materials; Laumont; The Standard, High Line; and Core Helicopters.

ABOUT HIGH LINE ART

Presented by Friends of the High Line, High Line Art commissions and produces public art projects on and around the High Line. Founded in 2009, High Line Art presents a wide array of artwork including site-specific commissions, exhibitions, performances, video programs, and a series of billboard interventions. Curated by Cecilia Alemani, the Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Curator & Director of High Line Art, and produced by Friends of the High Line, High Line Art invites artists to think of creative ways to engage with the uniqueness of the architecture, history, and design of the High Line and to foster a productive dialogue with the surrounding neighborhood and urban landscape.

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, and public programming 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 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.

For further information on High Line Art, please visit art.thehighline.org.



MEDIA CONTACT

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FOR LONG-TERM LEASING OPPORTUNITIES

For information on long-term leasing opportunities for 120 Eleventh Avenue, please contact Brad Cohen of Eastern Consolidated at 646-374-8575 or bcohen@ecretail.com.

