



# Association for Public Art

Association for Public Art  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Internationally Acclaimed Artist Roxy Paine's Sculpture *Symbiosis* to Rise on Philadelphia's Benjamin Franklin Parkway**

PHILADELPHIA — The **Association for Public Art (aPA)** announces the installation of internationally acclaimed artist **Roxy Paine's** *Symbiosis*, a masterful work of public art that explores the tension between chaos and order in natural laws. Paine is known for work that investigates the collision of industry and nature; his series of stainless steel "Dendroid" sculptures are exemplary manifestations of this practice. The "Dendroids," a term combining "dendron" (Greek for "tree") and -oid (a suffix meaning "form"), are monumental structures that convey a fusion of industrial and organic forms. Hand-fabricated from thousands of pieces of stainless steel pipe, plate and rods, *Symbiosis* suggests both ecological and anatomical branching systems. *Symbiosis* has never before been publicly exhibited, and will be installed on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway beginning **May 27**, weather permitting; the work will remain on site for one year.

"*Symbiosis* is an important work by a significant contemporary artist," says **Penny Balkin Bach**, executive director of the Association for Public Art. "The addition of this enigmatic sculpture to the Benjamin Franklin Parkway — a nexus of remarkable public art, green space and world-class cultural institutions — enhances Philadelphia's reputation as one of the premier cities in the country for outdoor sculpture and innovative public art."

Paine's work consistently blurs the lines between the natural and artificial. The "dendroids" evoke arboreal structures, vascular systems, synaptic networks and industrial pipelines, interpreting the natural world through a man-made lens. The structures represent search, growth and the branching of systems that suggest dormant energy and potential, a theme Paine has explored in his work for the last 15 years.

*Symbiosis*, presented by the Association for Public Art in cooperation with Philadelphia's Department of Parks & Recreation, is on temporary loan, courtesy of the artist and Marianne Boesky Gallery in New York. The artist will install the sculpture over several days beginning May 27 in Iroquois Park at the northern end of Philadelphia's Benjamin Franklin Parkway. *Symbiosis* will be located across a walkway from Mark di Suvero's *Iroquois*, which was installed by the Association for Public Art in 2007.

The Association for Public Art will host a public celebration of the arrival of *Symbiosis* on the Parkway on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014, from 5 to 7p.m. Information about the sculpture will be available through the Association for

Public Art's Museum Without Walls™: AUDIO program that now includes 65 audio programs featuring more than 150 people from all walks of life who have connections to the artworks by knowledge or experience. Museum Without Walls™: AUDIO is available to the public for free on multiple platforms, including: cell phone, by calling **(215) 399-9000**; downloading the MWW AUDIO mobile application on iPhone or Android; or audio download/streaming audio on the official program website, [museumwithoutwallsaudio.org](http://museumwithoutwallsaudio.org).

“Public art and space can be a challenge,” Paine says, “but it provides the unique opportunity for art to become a nucleus of energy for a city. My hope is for *Symbiosis* to become a reference point, a place for gathering or for a moment of quiet contemplation in the midst of frenetic urban life.”

### **About *Symbiosis***

*Symbiosis* represents the collision of two dendroids that result in stasis, a questionable relationship that teeters between support and detriment. Rising 34 feet high, the more than 3.5 ton sculpture was created from standard industrial piping that was welded, formed and polished in the artist's studio to create two shimmering, interrelated organic forms that both buttress and weigh on one another, referencing the darker aspects of nature and the fierceness of its laws.

### **About the Artist**

Roxy Paine was born in 1966 in New York and studied at both the College of Santa Fe in New Mexico and the Pratt Institute in New York. Since 1990, his work has been internationally exhibited and is included in major collections such as De Pont Museum of Contemporary Art, Tilburg, The Netherlands; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; Israel Museum, Jerusalem; Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, CA; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY. His dendroid sculptures can be found at various museums including the Olympic Sculpture Park, Seattle, WA; Montenmedio Arte Contemporaneo NMAC, Cadiz, Spain; the St. Louis Museum of Art, St. Louis, MO; The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Fort Worth, TX; and Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR. The artist has also completed temporary installations of his artwork, including on the Cantor Roof Garden at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Central Park, and Madison Square Park, New York, NY. Roxy Paine lives and works in Brooklyn and Treadwell, NY and is represented by Marianne Boesky Gallery in New York, NY and Kavi Gupta in Chicago, IL. The artist's next solo exhibition will open at Marianne Boesky Gallery on September 4, 2014. For more information on the artist visit [www.roxypaine.com](http://www.roxypaine.com).

### **About the Association for Public Art**

The Association for Public Art (aPA, formerly Fairmount Park Art Association) commissions, preserves, promotes and interprets public art in Philadelphia. Since its founding in 1872, aPA has worked with artists, communities and civic leaders to make encounters with art a part of everyday life, creating a Museum Without Walls™ that is free and accessible to residents and visitors. As the nation's first private nonprofit organization dedicated to integrating public art and urban planning, aPA has an unparalleled and pioneering history, characterized by artistic excellence, creative initiative, collaboration and civic engagement. Working closely with city agencies, aPA remains today a central resource and contributor to Philadelphia's enduring reputation as an important place to view and experience the evolution of public art. Through aPA's free, interactive public programs, website and publications, Philadelphians and visitors are invited to experience civic spaces enlivened by artists and art; to discover the city's vast collection of public art; and to connect to a shared cultural legacy. For more information, visit [associationforpublicart.org](http://associationforpublicart.org).

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**To request high-resolution images, interviews and more information, please contact:**

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