

# MODEL TO MONUMENT (M2M) SCULPTURE LAUNCH

Date and time: **Wednesday May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2pm**

Location: **145<sup>th</sup> and the Hudson River in [Riverside Park](#),  
Manhattan**

[Directions to this location:](#)

By Public transportation and on foot: 1 train to 145<sup>th</sup> Street/Broadway; walk west on 145<sup>th</sup> Street to enter Riverbank State Park; descend by stair or elevator to Riverside Park M2M site directly below.

Format for event:

Comments from Michael Rips, Executive Director

Greg Wyatt, Artist and Program Director

Presentations by participating artists

NYC Parks Senior Official

Reception following opening ceremony: Sofrito NYC Restaurant, 679 Riverside Drive and 145<sup>th</sup> Street, located inside Riverbank State Park.

**Background:**

Model to Monument (M2M) is a partnership with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation continuing the rich tradition of public art in NYC. M2M trains artists to produce work for public spaces and installs the work for community enrichment.

M2M is rooted in the understanding that monuments made for public spaces go through an extensive process of refinement, from early design phases to final full-scale sculptures. From the time of the ancient Egyptians and Greeks to the Italian Renaissance, sculptors have begun their projects with sketches that progress into small-scale *maquettes* (models). Those models are re-worked; large-scale designs are created; work is fabricated; and finally the sculptures are installed as realized public monuments.

# Damon Hamm and Jeff Sundheim *Wavehenge*, 2017–2019

Steel, Teak  
May 2019–May 2020



***Coming Ashore*** is dedicated to the waves of immigrants who came to New York City seeking a better life for themselves and their families. Most arrived with nothing more than ambition and left a lasting imprint on the city, much like the shadow cast by *the work's* 24' wave.

Brushed stainless steel is used for both the vertical wave and casings of the concrete ripples. The material's reflective qualities let it bend and dance in the sun, much like ocean waves. Along the sides of the ripples, each of the countries/regions where and when major immigration waves began will be memorialized including those below. Each day, as the sun moves across the sky, the shadow cast by the vertical component will align with each immigration wave, leading up to the modern era at sunset.

**Damon Hamm** is a sculptor and designer living and working in New York, NY. He studied architecture and sculpture under luminary Athena Tacha, installation artist Johnny Coleman, printmaker John Pearson, and apprenticed for kinetic artist Hilary Harp and architect Paolo Soleri.

**Jeff Sundheim** is a Brooklyn-based artist working across media with a special interest in site-specific sculpture.

# Gaia Grossi

## *Gaea, 2017–2019*

Concrete, Steel  
May 2019–May 2020



### **Gea**

*(Ancient Greek for Mother Earth)*

"I am the rock carved by the waves, the solidity being soften and transformed by water. My shape is fluid, changing with time and the forces of nature. I adapt, stand still and embrace the earth. I am the earth.

I am a refuge for anyone in need of rest and time for meditation. I evoke nature in a monumental way and work with, not against, the opposing forces of gravity. I dialogue with the boulders that surround me and are harmoniously integrated in the composition. I guard the park and welcome the visitors with my feminine, organic and comforting shape. Through my opening I frame the landscape, the river and its flow. My strategic position engages the other two monumental sculptures. They are the waves that have been carving my core, I am the result of their vibrant and never ending flow.

Together, we represent the different elements and their meaningful interaction. We inspire a sense of immensity, unity and universal strength."

Gea is composed of an iron and wire mesh armature, covered in concrete. It is 20 feet tall, 26 wide and 10 feet deep.

Gaia Grossi is a Rome-born artist now based in Brooklyn, New York. Her background is in journalism but upon moving to New York made the transition to make art rather than report on it; a career change supported by The Art Students League of New York.

# Frank Michielli

## *Moiré 3*, 2018–2019

Painted Steel  
May 2019–May 2020



Frank Michielli is a partner at Michielli + Wyetzner Architects. When not practicing architecture, he is often making clay and steel sculpture, furniture and drawings.