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Visionary New England Opens at deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum

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Sam Durant, *Transcendental (Wheatley's Desk, Emerson's Chair)*, 2016, painted wood, 53 3/4 x 34 1/4 x 34 1/2 inches. Collection of deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum. *Courtesy of the artist.*

Boston & Lincoln, MA – DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum announces its newest exhibition, *Visionary New England*, opening to the public on April 24, 2020 running through September 13, 2020. Inspired by New England's history of visionary, mystical, and utopian leaders, the multi-disciplinary, group exhibition incorporates contemporary paintings, photography, sculpture, unique site-specific installations, and historical artifacts that highlights New England's place as an incubator to alternative types of community and social reform.

All participating artists hold strong connections to the region and focus their work within the historical, spiritual, or cultural themes of the show. The exhibition is made up of over 80 contemporary works of art, 30 historic artifacts and books, and two new outdoor installations commissioned specifically for the show.

"The contemporary artists in this exhibition offer fascinating updates on themes of spirituality, progressive reform, and community that continue to be highly relevant in today's world," says John B. Ravenal, Trustees' Vice President for Arts & Culture and Artistic Director, deCordova. "We look forward

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to sharing their insights with our members and visitors this spring and believe the works will resonate with many different age and interest groups."

The participating artists, who range from internationally recognized figures to self-taught folk artists include: Gayleen Aiken, Caleb Charland, Anna Craycroft, Angela Dufresne, Sam Durant; 2018 winner of the Rappaport Prize, Josephine Halvorson, Paul Laffoley, Michael Madore, Candice Lin, and Kim Weston. The Media Gallery has been curated as a black box theater to display work by Erin Johnson and Tourmaline. The exhibition also features a Researcher-in-Residence, Diana Limbach Lempel, who asks the question "Where is a women's imagination?" as she studies three generations of New England women writers and historians.

The exhibition is curated by Sarah Montross, Senior Curator, who has overseen all aspects of exhibition and publication planning. Montross has organized several highly regarded exhibitions and outdoor sculpture commissions at deCordova, including Screens: Virtual Material, deCordova New England Biennial 2019, and PLATFORM 19: Letha Wilson.

"Visionary New England explores the ways in which our region's seekers of alternative ways of life often overlapped with the search for the Divine or expanded modes of consciousness and creativity," adds Montross. "The show embraces a range of supernatural beliefs alongside empirical study of the natural world. When past and present are brought together, the exhibition reveals how pressing political, social, and environmental issues were and still are in the minds and hearts of visionary creators of this region."