



**NEWS RELEASE: September 17, 2009**  
deCordova Sculpture Park + Museum  
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Lincoln, MA 01773  
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Laurie J. LaMothe  
Director of External Affairs  
781/259-3620  
llamothe@decordova.org

## DeCordova Sculpture Park + Museum Fall 2009 Exhibition and Events

### Exhibitions:

#### ***Lalla Essaydi: Les Femmes du Maroc***

Joyce and Edward Linde Gallery  
September 26, 2009 – January 3, 2010

Lalla Essaydi is a New York-based, Moroccan-born photographer, painter, and installation artist. Over the past decade, she has risen to international prominence with her timely and beautiful work that deals with the condition of women in Islamic society, cross-cultural identity, Orientalism, and the history of art. Essaydi has developed a powerful and personal artistic voice that calls into question prevailing myths, power hierarchies, and traditions that limit human freedom, and her work has links to that of her feminist Muslim expatriate contemporaries—Ghada Amer, Ambreen Butt, Emily Jacir, Sherin Neshat, and Shahzia Sikander.

This solo exhibition at DeCordova is the first American museum presentation of Essaydi's most recent body of work, *Les Femmes du Maroc*, which expands upon Essaydi's previous work in several important ways. These photographs critique contemporary social structures, but simultaneously confront historical attitudes that have helped in great part to construct past and present representations of Arab women. The title of the series is a modification of *Les Femmes d'Algiers*, a painting by French Romantic Artist Eugène Delacroix from 1834. Most of the photographs in *Les Femmes du Maroc* are based on specific nineteenth-century European and American Orientalist paintings; Essaydi, however, has radically transformed the antecedents. While she retains the compositions, gestures, and general costume of the original paintings, she strips them of their opulent colors, removes male figures, erases cues to social status, clothes all nudity, and incorporates her ubiquitous calligraphy. *Les Femmes du Maroc* unmask the formulaic, and sometimes pornographic aspects of Orientalist painting and the Western view of Arab women they encapsulate. Traversing the geographic, political, and religious divides between East and West, history and the present, Essaydi's photographs foster timely discourse about Orientalism and cross-cultural understanding today.

Organized by Senior Curator Nick Capasso. *Les Femmes du Maroc* is accompanied by a full-color brochure.

*Les Femmes du Maroc* will be traveling to the Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, January 30, 2010 – June 6, 2010.

**PLATFORM 1**

***Andrew Mowbray: Tempest Prognosticator***

James and Audrey Foster Galleries and the Phyllis and Jerome Lyle Rappaport Roof Terrace  
September 26, 2009 – January 3, 2010

PLATFORM is a new series of solo exhibitions by early and mid-career artists from both the New England and national artist communities. These shows are open to all media and focus on work that engages with DeCordova's unique architectural spaces and social, geographical, and physical location. All work featured in PLATFORM exhibitions is site-oriented, created expressly for this program, or is new to the New England region. This series is intended to serve as a support for creativity and expression of new ideas and as a catalyst for dialogue about contemporary art.

Boston-based artist Andrew Mowbray inaugurates the PLATFORM program. Mowbray investigates the life of objects through a mixture of sculpture and performance to question the boundaries between body and object in the process. For PLATFORM 1, Mowbray will present *Tempest Prognosticator*, a series of works that explore our contemporary relationship with weather. The title of this exhibition is derived from an ornate Victorian device created to forecast weather conditions using leeches. Mowbray uses the controlled conditions of the gallery as a lens for observation, comparing its supposed sterile, objective nature to scientific laboratory. He literally interjects his body into the process by using it as an instrument of measurement—wearing a human-scaled anemometer or over-sized umbrella.

PLATFORM 1 extends from the museum's fourth floor Galleries to the Phyllis and Jerome Lyle Rappaport Roof Terrace—the highest point in Lincoln, MA—where Mowbray has placed his largest drawing machine to date.

This exhibition includes sculpture, performance video, drawing, and performative objects. PLATFORM 1 is accompanied by a full-color exhibition brochure. Organized by Assistant Curator Dina Deitsch. PLATFORM is funded in part by James and Audrey Foster.

***Jules Aarons: In the Jewish Neighborhoods, 1946-76.***

Arcade Gallery, Photo Study Space, Phyllis and Jerome Lyle Rappaport Media Space  
September 26, 2009 – January 3, 2010

Selected from the Permanent Collection portfolio *In the Jewish Neighborhoods, 1946-76*, the forty-nine photographs by renowned street photographer Jules Aarons (1921-2008) on view span the artist's career. While many of the images have appeared independent of each other in a variety of publications and exhibitions, grouped in this portfolio, they take on new meaning and highlight Aarons's active exploration of historic and contemporary Jewish neighborhoods at home and throughout his many travels. This exhibition includes images of Boston's ethnically diverse West End, the historically Jewish districts in Paris as well as places symbolic of Aarons's

childhood and family communities in the Bronx and Rockaway, NY. Organized by Koch Curatorial Fellow Nina Gara Bozicnik.

### Upcoming Exhibitions:

#### ***Out of the Box: Photography Portfolios from the Permanent Collection***

Dewey Family Gallery

Opening: October 24, 2009 – fall 2010 (closing date TBA)

In collaboration with one of Boston's premier venues for photography, the **Photographic Resource Center at Boston University (PRC)**, DeCordova has invited their former curator, now independent curator, Leslie K. Brown to organize an exhibition from the Museum's extensive photography collection.

*Out of the Box* highlights the history and strengths of DeCordova's permanent photography collection, touching upon the history of photography portfolios as it relate to photo-history and the history of collecting multiples. DeCordova's holdings offer a unique opportunity to explore this topic, as nearly one-fifth of DeCordova's photography collection's 1,400 prints are from portfolios.

*Out of the Box* features selections from eleven portfolios, ranging from the very first photographs to enter DeCordova's collection in 1980 – an abstract portfolio by Calvin Kowal—to well-known leaders in the field such as Larry Fink and Neal Slavin. In addition to the most recently acquired photographs from 2009—a portfolio by Jo Sandman—*Out of the Box* will also highlight the entire PRC portfolio, published in 2008, which includes luminaries such as Emmet Growin, Laura McPhee, Arno Rafael Minkinen, Abelardo Morell, and Patti Smith, among others.

*Out of the Box* also initiates a new curatorial program in which guest curators and artists are invited to explore and offer new viewpoints for the interpretation and presentation of DeCordova's collection.

DeCordova's 2009-2010 photography exhibitions have been funded by a grant from The Lois and Richard England Family Foundation.

### Events and Programming

#### **pARTy @ DeCordova, DeCordova's Annual Benefit and Auction**

**Chaired by Barbara Cole Lee**

Saturday, October 17, 2009

Feast on Italian cuisine paired with fine wine selections, and bid on works by emerging and established American artists, at this premier fundraising auction to support DeCordova's exhibitions and educational programming. The evening begins at 6: 30 pm with the Silent Auction and cocktails by the talented bartenders of *Drink*, followed by cuisine especially prepared

by celebrated Chef Barbara Lynch of *No.9 Park*. For tickets, please contact Melissa MacPhee at 781/259-3620.

### **Process Gallery**

September 26, 2009 – January 3, 2010

Free with museum admission

This fall's process gallery will focus on the medium of photography. Highlighting the three concurrent Museum exhibitions (*Lalla Essadyi: Les Femmes du Maroc*; *Jules Aarons: In the Jewish Neighborhoods, 1946-76*; and *Out of the Box: Photography Portfolios from the Permanent Collection*) this interactive, family-friendly space will delve into artists' creative processes, the concept of a portfolio, various photographic formats, and much more.

### **Cell Phone Audio Tours**

September 26, 2009 – January 3, 2010

Free with museum admission

Bring your cell phones with you to DeCordova this fall and experience two new audio tours! Lalla Essaydi will guide you through her exhibition, *Lalla Essaydi: Les Femmes du Maroc*. Essaydi will explain how she sets up for a shoot, why she uses henna in her work, and why she is so intrigued by nineteenth-century Orientalist paintings. In *Out of the Box: Photography Portfolios from the Permanent Collection*, Leslie K. Brown, former curator from Boston University's Photographic Resource Center and Palm Press owner and collector Gus Kayafas converse about portfolios, why they are produced, the appeal of collecting them, and how these particular portfolios were curated in this exciting exhibition.

### ***Lalla Esasydi: Les Femmes du Maroc***

#### *Artist and Curator Conversation*

Saturday, October 3, 3 pm

Free with museum admission

#### *Women, Culture, and Islam: A Cultural Historian's Perspective on Lalla Essaydi's Photographs*

Sunday October 11, 1 pm

Free with museum admission

DeCordova welcomes Senior Resident Scholar Elier Gadon from Brandeis University Women's Resource Center for an afternoon discussion of Lalla Essaydi's photographs. Framed within the context of anthropology, art, and religion, Gandon brings her unique perspective as a cultural historian to this intriguing exhibition.

#### *Curator Talk: Senior Curator Nick Capasso*

Saturday, November 21, 3 pm

Free with museum admission

***Jules Aarons: In the Jewish Neighborhoods, 1946-76***

*Curator Talk: Koch Curatorial Fellow Nina Gara Bozicnik*

Saturday, October 24, 3 pm

Free with museum admission

***Out of the Box: Photography Portfolios from the Permanent Collection***

*Curator Talk: Former PRC Curator Leslie K. Brown*

Saturday, November 7, 3 pm

***PLATFORM 1: Andrew Mowbray***

*Artist Talk: Andrew Mowbray*

Saturday, October 10, 3pm

Free with museum admission

***PLATFORM Discussion Series***

Saturday, December 5, 3 pm

Free with museum admission

A PLATFORM-exclusive event, join artist Andrew Mowbray and Hanna Rose Shell, MIT science historian, as they engage in a conversation about some of the large issues in Mowbray's exhibition, *Tempest Prognosticator*. Topics will include modernity in the nineteenth century, the history of science at the turn of the century, and how Mowbray integrates these concepts into his work.

***Sculpture Park***

*Collection Walks with Bartow + Metzgar*

Saturday, October 17, 1 pm

Saturday, November 7, 1 pm

Free with museum admission

Trained in the visual arts and architecture, Paul Bartow and Richard Metzgar's art practice is an experimental engagement with the environment. They research specific sites as a way to understand the complex layers of historical, geological, and microbiological information that qualify an experience of place. As part of this process, they will take visitors on walks to collect environmental samples on site at DeCordova. Please RSVP to Laura Hoffman at 781/259-3604, limit 6.

***Birding Tour***

Mark Lynch and Shelia Carroll

Saturday, September 19, 7 am

(rain date Saturday, September 19, 7 am)

Do not miss this unique opportunity to see a new side of DeCordova! Join avid birders Mark Lynch and Sheila Carroll and a DeCordova Museum Guide for a bird and art watching tour of DeCordova's Sculpture Park. Please bring your best binoculars (minimally 7 x 35), a field guide if you have one, and comfortable walking shoes. Tours will meet in the main parking lot and will run no longer than two hours. Free and open to the public. Please RSVP to Laura Hoffman at 781/259-3604, limit 20 (ages 14 and up).

### **About DeCordova**

Founded in 1950, DeCordova Sculpture Park + Museum was established to educate as broad and diverse a public as possible about modern and contemporary American art. With a 35-acre Sculpture Park that features more than 80 works, a robust slate of exhibitions, the largest non-degree granting studio art program in New England, and innovative interpretive programming, DeCordova is at the forefront of arts education as well as an exciting contemporary art destination.

DeCordova attracts more than 100,000 visitors from New England and tourists from around the world to its campus each year; trains 200 teachers in arts education; and enrolls 4,000 students of all ages in studio art classes in the Museum School. DeCordova has 3,500 members and a unique Corporate Art Program which loans work by regional contemporary artists to more than 100 businesses on Massachusetts for public display.

**General Information:** DeCordova is open Tuesday through Sunday, from 10 am to 5 pm and on selected Monday holidays. General admission during Museum hours is \$12 for adults, \$8 for senior citizens, students and youth ages 6 - 12. Children age 5 and under, Lincoln residents, and Active Duty Military Personnel and their dependents are admitted free. The Sculpture Park is open year-round during daylight hours. Guided public tours of the Museum's main galleries take place every Thursday at 1pm and Sunday at 2pm. Tours of the Sculpture Park are given on Saturday and Sunday at 1 pm from May to November. All guided tours are free with Campus admission. Visit [www.decordova.org](http://www.decordova.org) or call 781/259-8355 for further information.

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