



FIGMENT

For immediate release - May 5, 2011

Contact:

David Koren, Executive Producer / davidkoren@figmentproject.org / 646.391.4729
Carlijn Urlings, Communications Director / info@figmentproject.org / 347.631.0364
Larisa Fuchs, Press Coordinator / press@figmentproject.org / 914.319.5587

FIGMENT Terrace 2011: Sculpture Garden projects announced

FIGMENT, a free, family-friendly participatory arts event held in multiple cities and attracting tens of thousands of participants each year, has announced 13 interactive projects that will form the FIGMENT Terrace Sculpture Garden on Governors Island from May 27 through September 25, 2011.

More info:

Official FIGMENT Sculpture Terrace page (with hi-res images): <http://figmentproject.org/sculpturegarden>
FIGMENT general info and hi-res images: <http://figmentproject.org/about/press-resources>

About FIGMENT:

Founded in 2007 on New York City's Governors Island with a handful of projects and a few thousand enthusiasts, FIGMENT has grown exponentially into a multi-day, multi-city event that drew over 30,000 participants in NYC and Boston in 2010. With the addition of Jackson, Mississippi and Detroit, Michigan in 2011, FIGMENT continues its mission to offer free, inclusive and participatory art to entire communities, removing the barriers of museum and gallery walls and entrance fees, and blurring the lines between those who create and those who enjoy art. FIGMENT NYC 2011 dates are June 10-12.

In addition to the weekend-long arts festival, FIGMENT presents three free season-long interactive exhibitions on Governors Island: the FIGMENT Terrace Sculpture Garden, highlighted below; the FIGMENT Minigolf Course; and the City of Dreams Pavilion, a centerpiece for arts activity on the island, the result of an international design competition created in partnership with ENYA and SEAoNY.

FIGMENT is a project of Action Arts League, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, and is created and produced by a coalition of volunteers. FIGMENT is entirely funded by grants and individual donations, and accepts no corporate sponsorship of any kind. FIGMENT is supported by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council, as well as by the Fund for Creative Communities, supported by New York State Council on the Arts and administered by Lower Manhattan Cultural Council. FIGMENT Boston is produced with support from the Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy, the designated stewards of the Rose Kennedy Greenway and site of FIGMENT Boston.

About FIGMENT Terrace Sculpture Garden:

Over the past two summers, the FIGMENT sculpture garden has been a huge success, receiving significant media attention and over 200,000 visitors in the 2010 season alone. This year, out of over 50 submissions, FIGMENT has selected 13 amazingly creative, interactive, and sustainable sculpture projects that -- pending fund raising as well as approvals and permits from the Trust for Governors Island and other relevant city agencies -- will find a temporary home on Governors Island. In the FIGMENT Terrace Sculpture Garden, these projects will be open and free for the public to enjoy while the island is open Fri-Sun and holiday Mondays from May 27 to September 25, 2011.

FIGMENT

FIGMENT Terrace Sculpture Garden 2011 Projects:

Microtopia by Quest Collective



Students from Quest 2 Learn public school, graffiti art class students at the Educational Alliance, and FIGMENT visitors build Microtopia, a durable modular miniature city and a skateboard park to play in and build on. Graffiti mini-murals are created on the buildings; blocks and paint are available to visitors to add to the city. Workshops with educators, graffiti (and other) artists as well as environmentalists are held throughout the summer. Microtopia emphasizes the value of play, equal opportunity, and the sense of belonging to and caring for the city. Kids will help de-install and take home parts of the city. To contribute to this project, [click here](#).

Bottle Cap Shaker by Alexander Lockwood



Bottle Cap Shaker is a giant, colorful musical shaker of found plastic bottle caps. Visitors can play the shaker by pulling a rope attached to the bottom of the instrument, allowing the shaker to bounce and thousands of caps hit against each other. Visitors to Governors Island consume thousands of water and soda bottles over the summer. The caps from those bottles will be collected in labeled buckets located at garbage stations. The artist will rework those caps into the shaker with the help of volunteers and visitors, doubling its size over the course of the summer.

FIGMENT

Invisible Sculptures by Andreas Keller



The nine hours every day we spend watching TV and in front of the computer have dramatically impoverished our sensory experiences. We engage with sights and sounds but rarely ever attend to smells, tastes, and touches. Invisible Sculptures consists of odor delivery devices in each of the oak trees facing Liggett Hall. The odors are site specific olfactory sculptures that refer to Governors Island and its history. Visitors can walk from tree to tree and release odors by pulling ropes tangling from the trees, inspiring them to pay attention to odors everywhere on Governors Island and beyond.

SWAN by Bayard



SWAN, a group of three inflatable sculptures made of found fabric is hand screened, sewn and inflated by fans. One inflatable asks visitors to MAKE A WISH, another asks visitors to WISH FOR PEACE, the third piece is a sea of white stars on a blue flocked ground representing the universe overseeing wishes, granting all once peace has been achieved. SWAN, embraced by visitors as something fun, subliminally challenges them to think about themselves, the world they live in and how their desires can affect not only themselves but the human condition all around them.

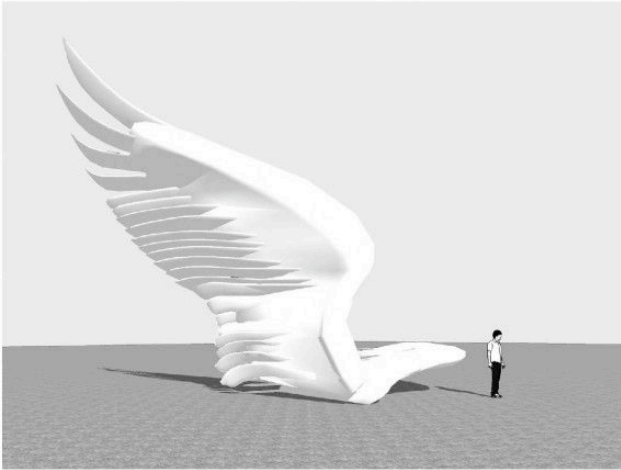
TreeHouse by Benjamin Jones



TreeHouse is part nostalgic playground, part classroom. Encouraging the viewers to play, it is also meant to serve as an educational tool for sustainability issues. The project brings together both kids and adults through hands-on activities and is exemplary for the use of reclaimed materials both on a small and large scale level. TreeHouse and its surrounding playground activities are created entirely from reclaimed materials from the streets of Brooklyn and project partner Build It Green! NYC, a non-profit retail outlet for salvaged and surplus building materials. Wind and solar energy are used to power the activities surrounding it.

FIGMENT

Temple of Grace by Jen Upchurch, Douglas Hart, and Bryan Cates



Designed in the form of angel wings, the Temple of Grace will be a significant landmark sculpture. Intended as a place of exploration, contemplation, reflection, and personal expression, the graceful timeless design of the sculpture will encourage visitors to walk around and through the wings, sit down and even climb into one of the wings, and interact with the Temple's structure by leaving contributions of art, messages, and other ephemera on the wooden feathers of its wings. The temple encourages people to interact mentally, physically, or artistically and discover their own eccentricity and the angel within themselves. The Temple of Grace is a fiscally sponsored project of Circle Arts, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

Knit For Trees by Isabelle Garbani



About 21 million plastic bags are used every minute worldwide...a staggering figure. What better way to fight this ecological disaster, and at the same time acknowledge the futility of the task, than to use plastic bags as yarn to knit scarves, sweaters, and mittens for trees? Throughout the summer, the artist collects shopping bags from visitors to Governors Island, and uses them as yarn to knit protective garb for the trees of the island. Visitors are encouraged to participate by helping cut the bags, roll the strips into yarns, sort the yarns by color, and knit.

Claiming Space For All Occasions by Maria Hupfield



This durational performance piece and installation is a constructed ground based circular earth work. The artist creates a pattern in this circle by cutting away the existing grass; the exposed earth underneath shapes the image. The resulting outline is based on regional American Indian floral designs, determined by the artist during the performance in response to conditions, visitors and site location. The work remains on Governors Island for the duration of the summer until the pattern fades from exposure to the natural elements and the grass grows back. The piece expands on themes of displacement, connection to land, and heritage.

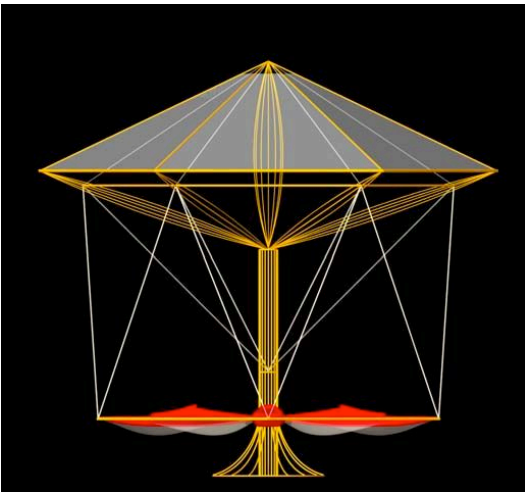
FIGMENT

Becky's Dream Catcher by Mike Maung



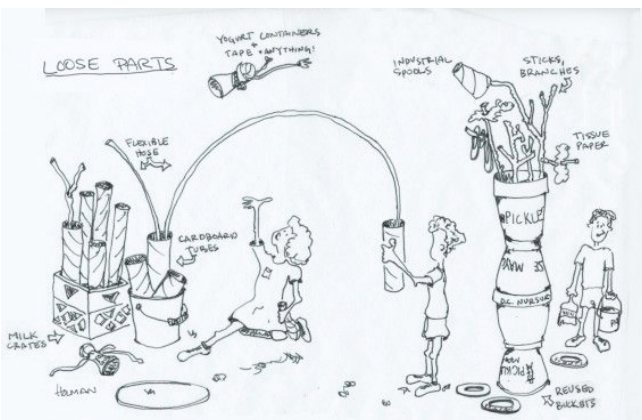
Visitors to the Sculpture Garden can relax, dream, reflect and watch the world go by while suspended in Becky's Dream Catcher on an oversized hammock. The hammock will be suspended within an 18' diameter geodesic sphere made of oak struts and aluminum hubs. The installation is a showcase of durability and structural integrity.

Transformative Kayak by Robert K. Otani



Inspired by a desire to bond the playful atmosphere of children playing on Governors Island to the tranquil ambiance of the more mature who seek a day of repose, Transformative Kayak is intended to be a sculpture for relaxation and social interaction, disassembled, and then transformed and donated to children for their use around the island. Transformative Kayak is a fun and leisurely space where children can play in the 'floating' kayaks while their parents relax in the hammocks that are tethered between the kayaks. A shading diffusion of light is provided by translucent polycarbonate panels atop the sculpture.

Pop-Up Adventure Playground by Pop-Up Adventure Play



A temporary play space dedicated to children's right to play. Gathering materials from and making connections with other island events, this project is a creative, interactive opportunity to engage visitors. Children of all ages come together to seize found, recycled, and donated materials, transforming them into the environments they imagine. The trained adults who caretake the site are known as Playworkers. They protect the child's freedom to explore the sensory and aesthetic possibilities of the site, to experiment and take risks, and to transform the materials and themselves into something new.

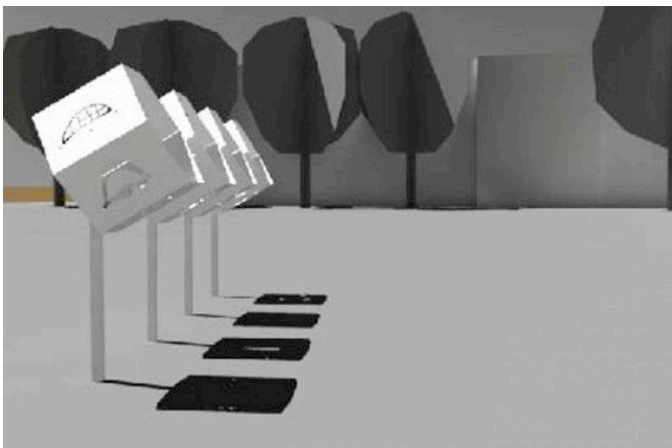
FIGMENT

Stealth Fighter by Zaq Landsberg



Emblematic of US military operations in both Gulf Wars and the time in between, the F-117 stealth fighter's odd, angular design makes it invisible to radar. This 1:1 scale replica is framed in wood and wire and covered in Astroturf. It will be hidden in plain sight. Although the Astroturf blends in with the grass, Stealth Fighter will be obvious because of its size and distinctive shape. Visitors can go inside the fighter and use its 'cover' to peek out the jet intakes and cockpit windows. The fighter's sloped sides provide a tent for people to hang out underneath.

Mood Lighting by Kristina Wilson, Jason Jeunette and Brandon Robinson



Inspired by Ray Bradbury's story "All summer in a day" – about Venusian children who see the sun for the first time – Mood Lighting invites people to remember the value, joy and wonder of the sun through 4 mounted boxes. Each box has cutouts of specific elements of the face: hair, eyes, nose and mouth, and three design options (smile, frown and buck teeth). When all 4 boxes are rotated and aligned with the sun correctly the shadow on the grass becomes a face. Participants are invited to mix and match elements to make all of the possible 81 faces.

Flaming Cactus by ANIMUS



Flaming Cactus creates something of beauty out of everyday items. ANIMUS transforms three of Governors Island's lampposts or signposts – by nature cold and utilitarian – into something colorful, whimsical, and artistic, by wrapping them in brightly colored cable ties. Because of the way that they are linked, the "tails" of the cable ties stick out, creating the effect of "cactus needles" protruding from the "trunk" of the lamppost. Our hope is to show that adding art to a community or space doesn't require a lot of resources, formal education, or even money. Creativity is something we're all capable of.

FIGMENT

M.O.R.E. Drums by Andrzej Liguz



M.O.R.E. (Ministry Of Random Events) was started by Andrzej Liguz in Australia and is dedicated to creating interactive sculptures and events which promote the use of recycled materials. The M.O.R.E. Drums were created using plastic industrial drums which were formerly used for transporting shampoo. Anyone can play them and should. They are set up in a circle so that people can see one another, which will help them to listen to one another and play together.

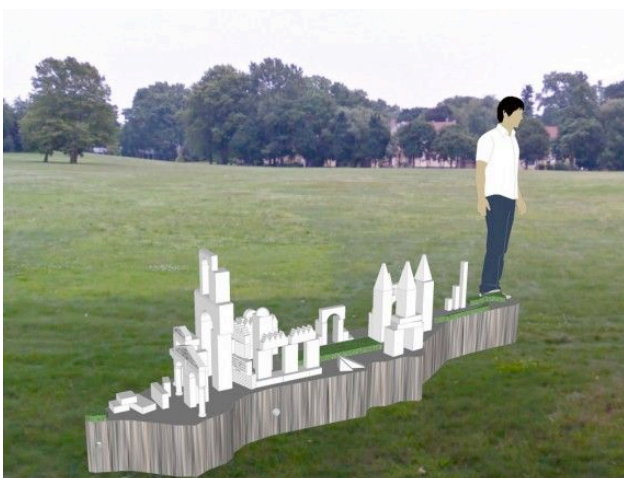
Strange Bugs! by Adel Kerpely



A make-your-own animation project with an installation of 15 nearly identical bug sculptures placed in a circle. As visitors sit on the giant insects, a friend takes a series of 15 photos of them on each bug one after another. The photographer stands in the middle of the circle, making sure the bug stays in the same spot of the composition. Played consecutively, these 15 photographs can be viewed as a movie. It will appear, as the background changes behind them, that the bug and the person who sits on it are on one crazy ride. Strange Bugs! is made possible in part with

public funds from the MCAF, supported by the NYC DCA in partnership with the City Council and administered by LMCC and Chashama.

City Blocks by Chassy Cleland



Manhattan is an island shaped by millions of dreams. City Blocks is an interactive installation that gives everyone the opportunity to rebuild the fabled island using building blocks made from reclaimed wood, shaped to show the many architectures of the city.