



International Sculpture Center
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MEDIA

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**REGISTRATION OPEN NOW FOR
26TH INTERNATIONAL SCULPTURE CONFERENCE,
OCTOBER 15-18, 2016 | PITTSBURGH, PA**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER ANNOUNCED - DIANA AL-HADID

(Hamilton, NJ) The **International Sculpture Center (ISC)** will hold the **26th International Sculpture Conference - *Sculpture in Context: Tradition and Innovation*** in **Pittsburgh, PA from October 15-18, 2016**. Inspired by industry and innovation in Pittsburgh the 26th International Sculpture Conference will explore how contemporary sculpture can effect cultural reinvention. Conference programs will include the annual ISC littleSCULPTURE show; ARTSlams and mentor sessions; engaging panel discussions; evening parties at the Mattress Factory and Carrie Furnaces, among others; hands-on workshops at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh Glass Center, and Pittsburgh Center for the Arts; a keynote address by Diana Al-Hadid; open studios and gallery hops; and optional art and culture trips. Pre- and post-conference tours, activities, and hands-on workshops will be held October 14th and October 19th. The last International Sculpture Conference in Pittsburgh was held in 2001.

Registration is open now and is available to ISC members, non-members, students, and all those with an interest in sculpture. For ISC members registering by August 18th, an Early Bird rate of \$375 is available. Registration is \$585 for non-members, \$200 for students, and \$125 for limited companion passes. Registration will close on September 29, 2016. Register online at www.sculpture.org/pittsburgh2016.

Registration includes admission to all panels, the Keynote Address by Diana Al-Hadid, ARTSlams & mentor sessions, Opening & littleSCULPTURE Show at the August Wilson Center, with a city-wide Gallery Hop, programming at Carnegie Mellon University, reception at the Mattress Factory, Closing Reception at Carrie Furnaces, boxed lunches and coffee hour, shuttles to select conference activities, and more.

Annually, the International Sculpture Conference seeks to introduce working artists, arts professionals, educators, and students to new art communities and to promote dialogue on international topics in contemporary sculpture. ISC Conferences allow for great networking and educational opportunities, providing for new connections, ideas, and possibilities in the field of sculpture.

This year's conference will feature panels on a diverse selection of engaging topics, featuring artists and professionals. Topics for this year's panels include, *A Place for Research and Cultural Resistance: Interstitial Public Space- a Transdisciplinary View*; *SEA Change: Sculpture, Education, and the New Paradigm*; *"What's Past is Prologue": The Influence of History on Contemporary Practice*; *The Complex Art of Making: the Role of Today's Technology In the Artist's Studio*; *The Object Maker in the Digital World*; *Casting the Iron Garden*; *From the Ludicrous to the Sublime (Or How I Stopped Worrying and Learned to Love the Process)*; *Older than Yesterday's News*; and more. **In addition to panels, the conference is proud to feature Keynote Speaker, Diana Al-Hadid.**

Diana Al-Hadid was born in Aleppo, Syria in 1981 and currently lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. Working with a variety of materials, Al-Hadid creates monumental sculptures, drawings, and panels, all of which blur the lines between figuration and abstraction. Her work references history by drawing influence from disrupted typologies found in architecture, antiquity, cosmology, and Old Master paintings. Al-Hadid received a BFA in sculpture and a BA in Art History from Kent State University in 2003, and an MFA in sculpture from Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond in 2005. She also attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in 2007. She has been the recipient of a Joan Mitchell Grant, a Louis Comfort Tiffany Grant, a USA Rockefeller Fellowship, a New York Foundation for the Arts Grant, and a Pollock-Krasner Grant. Her work is included in influential collections nationally, including the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Lincoln, MA and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY, among others. Al-Hadid has had solo exhibitions nationally and internationally in cities such as Vienna, Austria; Columbus, OH; New York, NY; Murcia, Spain; and Los Angeles, CA. Al-Hadid has an upcoming solo exhibition at NYU Abu Dhabi's University Gallery.

More details about the conference and other ISC events are available on the ISC website at www.sculpture.org/pittsburgh2016, by connecting with the conference on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pittsburgh2016, or by contacting the ISC Events Department at events@sculpture.org.

Collaborators and sponsors for the 26th International Sculpture Conference include: Andy Warhol Museum, Carnegie Mellon University, Carnegie Museum of Art, Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council, Mattress Factory, McKay Lodge Fine Arts Conservation Laboratory, Inc, Office of Public Art, Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Pittsburgh Glass Center, Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area and Carrie Furnaces, and University of Pittsburgh. This program is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts and by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The **International Sculpture Center (ISC)** is a member-supported, nonprofit organization founded in 1960 to champion the creation and understanding of sculpture and its unique, vital contribution to society. Members include sculptors, collectors, patrons, architects, developers, journalists, curators, historians, critics, educators, foundries, galleries, and museums-anyone with an interest in and commitment to the field of sculpture. Please visit www.sculpture.org for further details.

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