HEADLANDS CENTER FOR THE ARTS UNVEILS THREE NEW PERMANENT ART COMMISSIONS WITH LAUNCH OF THE COMMONS

Free Public Celebration and Grand Opening on September 17

WHAT: On Sunday, September 17, Headlands Center for the Arts will debut The Commons, the newest artist-led enhancement to its historic campus located in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area just north of San Francisco. The Commons will open to the public with a free daytime celebration, which features art installations, live music, family-friendly activities, food trucks, and more. Congressman Jared Huffman will speak at a site dedication and ribbon-cutting beginning at 12:30 pm, followed by a performance ritual led for the community by artist Dohee Lee, known for her immersive performances that bridge identity, politics, nature, and spirituality.

Located between and immediately surrounding the international art center’s two main buildings—decommissioned headquarters of a former US military post—The Commons reimagines an unpaved parking lot as a vibrant new outdoor space for artists, visitors, and passersby alike. The project is designed by CMG Landscape Architecture, and includes three site-specific artist commissions by Ball-Nogues Studio, Chris Kabel, and Nathan Lynch.

The Commons is the seventh of Headlands’ building commission projects, which include: the Rodeo Room and Eastwing by David Ireland and Mark Thompson (1986-87), The Latrine by Bruce Tomb and John Randolph (1988), the Mess Hall by Ann Hamilton (1989), Building 960 by Leonard Hunter and Mark Cavagnero (1999), the Reverse Ark Victory Garden by Amy Franceschini and Michael Swaine (2008), and The Key Room by Carrie Hott (2016).
THE ARTWORK:

**Welcome Terrace East & West, Ball-Nogues Studio**
Based on the tradition of Kintsugi or “golden joinery”—the Japanese art of mending broken pottery with lacquer and powdered metals—Los Angeles-based Ball-Nogues Studio revitalized the site’s original, cracked concrete driveway at Headlands to create of vibrant new promenade filled with colorful terrazzo mortar, which celebrates repair as honorable rather than something to disguise.

**Wall Space, Chris Kabel**
Created by Rotterdam-based designer Chris Kabel, *Wall Space* is a sculptural installation that turns Headlands’ building façade into a canvas for commissioned texts. Hidden armature, inspired by historical movie theater marqueses, features a modular lettering system rendered in transparent metal mesh, which responds to changing light conditions and makes the text readable to viewers as a cast shadow. For the inaugural installation, which will change over the course of the year, Headlands has commissioned a new poem by local writer Wendy Rose relating to her Hopi and Miwok ancestry and the Native American history of the Marin Headlands.

**Doubledrink, Nathan Lynch**
A functional sculpture conceived by San Francisco-based artist Nathan Lynch, *Doubledrink* is a ceramic drinking fountain designed for two people to drink simultaneously while looking each other in the eye. The work continues Lynch’s ongoing interest in political conflict and environmental issues by heightening the importance of sharing water as a limited natural resource and celebrating its power to bring friends and strangers together for a brief moment.

WHY:  
*The Commons* builds on Headlands’ history of inviting artists to creatively reinterpret place while stewarding the campus through site-sensitive rehabilitation. Thoughtfully enhancing and increasing access to the organization’s historic facilities, *The Commons* provides a central stage for all to convene for social gatherings, participate in public programming and events, pause during a hike, fill up water bottles, or simply take in the view.

WHEN/WHERE:  
*The Commons*  
September 17, 2017–ongoing  
Grand Opening + Public Celebration September 17, 2017, from 12-5pm, FREE  
Headlands Center for the Arts, 944 Fort Barry, Sausalito, CA 94965

SCHEDULE:  
12:30 PM Site Dedication by performance artist Dohee Lee and Congressman Jared Huffman  
1:15PM Readings and presentations by Wendy Rose, Kate Folk, Marco Lean, and Nicole Lavelle  
2PM Live music by Mary Lattimore  
3PM Readings by Susan Gevirtz, Aimee Phan, Lyzette Wanzer, and Emily Wolahan.  
4PM DJ set by JD Samson

Throughout the day attendees can experience performances + and art installations, including:  
Satellite Museum of Capitalism by FICTILIS  
Headlands’ 2016-17 Affiliate Artists + Graduate Fellows
The Studio for Urban Projects & Packard Jennings with the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition—advanced registration required here
The Emotional Arcade
In Search of the Truth by Cause Collective
The 500 Capp Street Foundation
Bay Area Discovery Museum
NatureBridge
Playworks

Food & Drink
Food Trucks by Off the Grid
Fort Point Beer Garden
Coffee by Andytown Coffee Roasters
Rest Station by Aesop
Refreshments by Bare Snacks and Hint Water

Cash recommended for food & beverage purchases

MORE INFO: Headlands Center for the Arts 944 Fort Barry, Sausalito, CA 94965
Founded in 1982, Headlands Center for the Arts operates a multi-disciplinary, international arts center best known for its dynamic public programs and highly lauded artist residency. Located in the coastal wilderness of the Marin Headlands, within the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Headlands’ historic nine-building campus is dedicated to process-driven exploration and risk-taking contemporary art in all disciplines. Its year-round programs provide visual artists, performers, musicians, and writers with opportunities for research, professional development, and peer-to-peer exchange at critical times in their careers.

Visit headlands.org/the/commons or call 415-331-2787 for more information.

CONTACTS: Vanessa Kauffman Zimmerly communicationsmanager@headlands.org, 415-331-2787 x23
Robyn Wise wiserobyn@gmail.com, 415-269-7043

IMAGE CREDIT:
The Commons; rendering by CMG Landscape Architecture