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**EMERALD NECKLACE CONSERVANCY EXPANDS 20TH ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION BY  
FUNDING INSPIRING PROJECTS BY LOCAL ARTISTS**

*"Fog performances" shine a spotlight on local performing arts community  
alongside exhibition of "fog sculptures" by renowned Japanese artist Fujiko Nakaya*

BOSTON, MA – To mark its 20th Anniversary year, the [Emerald Necklace Conservancy](http://www.emeraldnecklace.org) presents [Fog x FLO: Fujiko Nakaya on the Emerald Necklace](http://www.emeraldnecklace.org/fogxflo), a major multisite public art installation by internationally renowned artist Fujiko Nakaya. To expand the reach and impact of the twelve-week exhibition, and shine a spotlight on the local arts community, the Conservancy is also activating Nakaya's climate-responsive "fog sculptures" with "fog performances" by artists from across Boston. Following a request for proposals and a very strong response from the art community, the Conservancy selected twenty-two projects to be awarded support based on three criteria: an inspiring concept that highlights themes in Nakaya's art or Olmsted's park designs; strong potential for impactful and engaging experiences in the parks; and a demonstrated need for each project.

"We are excited to bring local artists to our anniversary celebration and provide more opportunities to engage with the Emerald Necklace," said Karen Mauney-Brodek, President of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy. "Considered by some to be Boston's largest immersive art installation in itself, carefully designed by Olmsted down to the plantings in each park, the Emerald Necklace is the city's green backbone, which has connected residents to their environment, neighborhoods and each other for more than a century. We are in the

Left: *Fog x Ruins* (#72509\_Franklin Park). Fujiko Nakaya. 2018. Right: children experience *Fog x Hill* (#72509\_Arnold Arboretum). Photography by Melissa Ostrow.

fortunate position to provide a platform to celebrate local artists from around the Necklace and to deepen public engagement with the parks while raising awareness and re-introducing locals and visitors to Frederick Law Olmsted's design."

*Fog x FLO: Fujiko Nakaya on the Emerald Necklace* will debut for the city the internationally renowned "fog sculptures" of Fujiko Nakaya (b. 1933), created in response to the landmarked landscapes designed by Frederick Law Olmsted (FLO). Known by Nakaya as "the most generous medium," the fog, with its dynamic and permeable form, allows for limitless interaction and collaboration. Local artists making connections with the Emerald Necklace and Nakaya's fog sculptures through "fog performances" at the five site-specific include:

1. **Lavender Ruins by Neil Leonard of Berklee College:** this sound composition will pay tribute to the visionary concepts of Fujiko Nakaya and the sonic imagination of Duke Ellington. The sound installation will be sited at the sculpture *Fog x Ruins* (#72509\_Franklin Park Overlook), at the Overlook Shelter Ruins in Franklin Park, and activated every Saturday and Sunday at sunset, from August 11 until October 31;
2. **Accomplices (for Fujiko Nakaya) by artist Andy Graydon:** this work—a series of six printed postcards—will invite visitors themselves to perform small micro-compositions on each site in response to and in collaboration with each of Nakaya's sculptures. Located at all five sites—*Fog x Canopy* (#72509\_Fens), *Fog x Island* (#72509\_Leverett Pond), *Fog x Beach* (#72509\_Jamaica Pond), *Fog x Hill* (#72509\_Arnold Arboretum) and *Fog x Ruins* (#72509\_Franklin Park), *Accomplices* will be available daily for the entire run of the show;
3. **the SOUND [if trees were water] by composer and sound artist Beau Kenyon:** using the tree as a metaphor for family heritage, and water as a symbol of migration and connection, the installation conveys a single story of hope and family from the perspective of new immigrant teenagers. Sited at the *Fog x Canopy* (#72509\_Fens) sculpture in the Fens, *the SOUND* will be performed on August 11 at 9am and 3pm, September 14 at 6pm, and September 15 at 6pm;
4. **What is Carried by Clouds by artist Naomi Bennett:** this work focuses on engaging the physically present body in encounters of disembodied-embodiment by using 3D video projections on a variety of surfaces. Drawing on the four natural elements (water, air, earth and fire), this installation aims to alter perception of how the audience views both Nakaya's sculpture and the surrounding terrain. Bennett's installation will take place at *Fog x Beach* (#72509\_Jamaica Pond) on September 1, 2 and 3 at sunset.
5. **No Data Is an Island by artist Ofri Cnaani:** the multifaceted digital participatory piece will exercise the meaning of visiting and knowing a place: physically, visually, digitally and mentally, encouraging self-guided wandering through call and response prompts and allowing participants to re-experience familiar or unfamiliar sites and explore spaces assumed to be known. This experience will take place at *Fog x Island* (#72509\_Leverett Pond) on September 16 at 2pm;
6. **Flow Through by percussionist and composer Maria Finkelmeier of Kadence Arts:** featuring forty performers, the work is inspired by the fluidity and importance of water to all living organisms and will be performed without a conductor. Just as Nakaya's fog creates its own journey, performers and listeners can explore and interact with the site at the performance, which will be held at *Fog x Hill* (#72509\_Arnold Arboretum) on September 22 at 4:30pm, 5:30pm and 6:30pm;
7. **After Irma by Grammy Award winning Los Munequitos de Matanzas Rumba ensemble with Neil Leonard of Berklee College:** a fragment from the ensemble's

new work addresses climate in the Caribbean and shares their experiences with Matanzas Bay before, during and after Hurricane Irma. *After Irma* will be performed at *Fog x Ruins* (#72509\_Franklin Park Overlook), at the Overlook Shelter Ruins in Franklin Park on September 23, at sunset (approximately 6:40pm);

8. ***Music for Ground and Atmosphere*** by musician and composer Ben Cosgrove: this live performance on keyboard and guitar will weave between live improvisation and pre-composed material to respond musically to Olmsted's and Nakaya's spatial and artistic decisions. The performance will be held at the *Fog x Hill* (#72509\_Arnold Arboretum) sculpture on October 7 at 5pm;
9. ***Dadabex in Boston*** by Dadabex Performance Group: fog is the true habitat of the Alpine ibex, where the shifting of shape, literally and metaphorically, blurs the boundaries between species, race, civilization and nature. Performance will be held at *Fog x Ruins* (#72509\_Franklin Park) on October 13 at 11am and 6pm;
10. ***A Woman's Journey*** by musician Ashleigh Gordon of *Castle of our Skins*: aiming to foster cultural curiosity through thought-provoking experiences in classrooms and concert halls alike, this performance will showcase this journey through the lens of Black women, highlighting their unique rites of passage through past, present and future in a haven of mist. The performance will take place at *Fog x Canopy* (#72509\_Fens) sculpture on October 13 at 4:30pm;
11. ***Sonic Visions*** by Jamaica Plain Saxophonist Quartet: these performances will revolve around color as it relates to music. The program's focal point is a piece titled *Five Colors*, which explores the visual realization of various sounds, just as colors emerge naturally through a heavy fog. To be performed at *Fog x Beach* (#72509\_Jamaica Pond) during various dates from 6pm to 9pm.

All performances are free and open to the public. Additional "fog performances" will be added at [www.emeraldnecklace.org/20th](http://www.emeraldnecklace.org/20th) as they are confirmed.

The projects were selected by a team of local art experts including Jen Mergel, Boston-based Project Curator for the Conservancy's anniversary celebration; Rhea Vedro, Director of Community Engagement at Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum; Justina Crawford, Manager of Lectures, Courses and Concerts at the Museum of Fine Arts; Penelope Taylor, Curator at Urbano Project; and Rickie Thompson, Board President of Franklin Park Coalition and lead coordinator of Elma Lewis Playhouse in the Park. "For these "fog performances" submissions, we assembled a group of reviewers invested in arts programming for broad audiences and in engaging communities along the Emerald Necklace," said Mauney-Brodek. "The Conservancy's goal is to put together an inclusive and accessible program that affirms the parks as a community connector for a range of art forms, geographic neighborhoods, cultural communities, traditions and abilities."

The immersive art exhibition *Fog x FLO: Fujiko Nakaya on the Emerald Necklace* will be free and open to the public from August 11 to October 31, 2018, and be the first simultaneous presentation of multiple works by Nakaya in her five-decade career. Organized by the Emerald Necklace Conservancy with guest curator Jen Mergel, this presentation of shape-shifting installations of pure water vapor will engage visitors with "climate responsive" systems as timeless and timely as their sites – the Emerald Necklace parks designed by Frederick Law Olmsted (1822-1903). *Fog x FLO: Fujiko Nakaya on the Emerald Necklace* is anticipated to draw up to 1 million visitors during its twelve weeks on view. Building on the

Necklace-wide exhibition, way-finding and interpretive approaches to navigating and understanding the Emerald Necklace parks are being piloted during the temporary installations. The way-finding pilot will test physical and digital formats to orient a range of park users on the Emerald Necklace. In addition, working with an educational advisory group, the Emerald Necklace Conservancy's Shattuck Visitor Center is rededicating spaces to offer over 600 square feet of gallery displays, an information area, and a convertible programming and meeting space in which visitors can learn about and take pride in the history of the Emerald Necklace.

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### **About the Emerald Necklace Conservancy**

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy is a non-profit organization founded in 1998 to steward and champion the Emerald Necklace, Boston's largest park system. The Conservancy protects, restores, helps maintain and promotes the Emerald Necklace's six distinct parks designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, and comprises 1,100 acres of meadows, woodlands, and paths. In collaboration with its public partners, the Conservancy provides maintenance of the parks and capital restoration projects, free cultural events, visitor services and environmental education. The parks serve as a respite from the city, a valuable commuting connector and a community convener for more than one million residents and tourists each year.

### **Exhibition Organization**

*Fog x FLO: Fujiko Nakaya on the Emerald Necklace* and other 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary programs are organized by the Emerald Necklace Conservancy in partnership with the City of Boston, Town of Brookline Parks and Open Space Division, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. Presentation is made possible with the generous support of Barbara and Amos Hostetter, High Meadows Foundation, Fotene Demoulas and Tom Côté, The Boston Foundation, Tom and Lisa Blumenthal, Brooke and John Cook, Plimpton Shattuck Fund, Kate and Ben Taylor, The Japan Foundation, Fish Family Fund, James and Audrey Foster, Kohlberg Greer Fund, Dr. Barbara Millen and Family, Samuels & Associates and an anonymous donor. Media sponsors: *Boston* magazine, *The Boston Globe*. Presentation of "fog performances" is made possible with the generous support of Barbara and Amos Hostetter and Eugene M. Lang Foundation.

[www.EmeraldNecklace.org](http://www.EmeraldNecklace.org)

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### **Note to Editors:**

Further information on each Fog Performance, the Emerald Necklace, its designer Frederick Law Olmsted, artist Fujiko Nakaya and her art, guest curator Jen Mergel, way-finding system, and new interpretive displays are available upon request.