



For Immediate Release



Phyllida Barlow, *prop*, 2018. A High Line Commission.  
Photo by Timothy Schenck

## PHYLLIDA BARLOW

### *prop*

A magnificent sculptural installation overlooking 10th Ave. at 16th St.

**May 2018 – March 2019**

**Various locations along the High Line**

**New York, NY (January 29, 2018)** – Presented by Friends of the High Line, High Line Art is pleased to announce a new High Line Commission by British artist Phyllida Barlow. The work, titled *prop*, is a new monumental sculpture on the Norther Spur Preserve over 10th Avenue at 16th Street. The installation will be on view from May 2018 through March 2019.

Phyllida Barlow is a British artist who came of age in the wake of the “New Generation” of British sculptors of the early 1960s. In conversation with both Pop in the United States and Arte Povera in Europe, Barlow turned away from the staid formalism of her British contemporaries, looking to brighter colors and everyday materials. Her immense sculptures—made from traditional building materials such as lumber and plaster, as well as textiles, Styrofoam, and cardboard—



reference her constant observations of everyday life. With her large-scale installations, Barlow constructs imposing works that play between the monumental scale of public art and architecture and the precariousness of her chosen materials and compositions. Her works evoke the dual facades of theater and architecture and the stories they construct.

Barlow presents a new iteration of a sculpture presented outside the British Pavilion at the 2017 Venice Biennale, re-imagined for the High Line. Throughout her career, Barlow has constantly revisited works to reconfigure them, often in consideration of a new context. The sculpture consists of two large concrete panels, with holes cut from their centers; set on stilts, the work appears like a character teetering among the planks at its base and emerging from the planting beds below. The sculpture stands on a railway spur at 16th Street that used to run directly into a refrigerated warehouse immediately north of Chelsea Market, formerly a Nabisco cookie factory. As with much of Barlow's oeuvre, the work points to the area's industrial past and how architecture, like art, is perpetually cannibalized from one generation to the next. Barlow's work will be the first artwork ever presented on the Northern Spur Preserve, a location that allows for unique views both from the High Line and the avenue below.

*"prop is a reminder of what might remain from an industrial past,"* says Barlow. *"It is an ambiguous object – although dependent on a hoarding structure, it cannot be that... the existing hoardings visible along the High Line are vast, supported by industrially fabricated structures; prop is a mere shadow of those contemporary monuments; in comparison to them, it is a frail copy – a prop in every way: a fake, and a pretense - other than its vacant circular orifices offering a sight line to what lies beyond ..."*

#### **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Phyllida Barlow (b. 1944, Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom) lives and works in London, United Kingdom. Recent solo exhibitions have been presented internationally at venues including Turner Contemporary, Margate, United Kingdom (2017); Kunsthalle Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland (2016); Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas, Texas (2015); Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland (2015); and Tate Britain, London, United Kingdom (2014); Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, Florida (2013); New Museum, New York, New York (2012); and Serpentine Gallery, London, United Kingdom (2010). Barlow's work has also been included in group exhibitions at institutions such as the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (2013); Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany (2011); and Museum Ludwig, Cologne, Germany (2011). In 2017, Barlow presented the British Pavilion at the 57th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy.

#### **ABOUT HIGH LINE ART**

Presented by Friends of the High Line, High Line Art commissions and produces public art projects on and around the High Line. Founded in 2009, High Line Art presents a wide array of artwork including site-specific commissions, exhibitions, performances, video programs, and a series of billboard interventions. Curated by Cecilia Alemani, the Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Director & Chief Curator of High Line Art, and produced by Friends of the High Line, High Line Art invites artists to think of creative ways to engage with the uniqueness of the architecture, history, and design of the High Line and to foster a productive dialogue with the surrounding neighborhood and urban landscape.

For further information on High Line Art, please visit [art.thehighline.org](http://art.thehighline.org).



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### **ABOUT FRIENDS OF THE HIGH LINE**

Friends of the High Line raises nearly 100% of the High Line's annual budget. Owned by the City of New York, the High Line is a public park programmed, maintained, and operated by Friends of the High Line, in partnership with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation.

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