

Laumeiersculpturepark

ST. LOUIS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 22, 2010

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Who: Laumeier Sculpture Park presents: Mark Newport Gallery Talk and *Knit-In @ the Park*
What: Gallery talk / tour by the exhibiting artist and a free public indoor-outdoor knitting event
When: Gallery Talk: Saturday, April 3, 2010, 1-2:00 p.m.; *Knit-In*: Saturday, April 3, 2-5:00 p.m.
Where: Laumeier Sculpture Park (Museum Building / Indoor Galleries)
Details: Free and open to the public; free parking available on-site

Mark Newport to join knitters for *Knit-In @ the Park* event and gallery talk at Laumeier Sculpture Park

St. Louis, MO (March 22, 2010) — On Saturday, April 3, Laumeier Sculpture Park will present its own unique spin on the classic artist gallery talk with the addition of a collaborative gathering of knitters. The public is welcome to attend a pair of free events to learn more about the current exhibition, *Mark Newport: Self-Made Man*, and about the art and craft of knitting. Mark Newport will speak about his work in the galleries at 1:00 p.m., followed by *Knit-In @ the Park* at 2:00 p.m. The *Knit-In* event will bring together the artist, knitters and curious non-knitters who will create a social scene and educational “happening” throughout the Laumeier landscape.

Mark Newport, the Artist-in-Residence and Head of Fiber at the Cranbrook Academy of Art, will tour visitors through his *Self-Made Man* exhibition (featuring human-scale, acrylic-knit superhero costumes) offering insights into his use of “soft” materials to explore “tough” topics such as gender stereotypes and the role of heroes in contemporary culture. Newport will be joined by Laumeier’s Director of Exhibitions and Collections, Kim Humphries, who curated the exhibition.

Following the tradition of similar events first organized by the Craft Yarn Council of America in the late 1990s, Laumeier’s *Knit-In* will offer visitors the chance to meet members of the Greater St. Louis Knitters’ Guild and learn from area knit shops — Knitorious and the Kirkwood Knittery. Additionally, Laumeier’s first Free Family Day in April will take place from 2-4:00 p.m. offering hands-on activities to spark the imagination and inspire creativity for families with children of all ages.

Knitters are encouraged to bring their own supplies and for first-time knitters, limited complimentary yarn and needles will be available. The Indoor Galleries will close at 5:00 p.m., but visitors are welcome to enjoy the Outdoor Galleries until the Park closes at 30 minutes after sunset. The *Self-Made Man* exhibition will continue through May 9. More information about the Newport exhibition is available at www.laumeier.org.

Laumeier Sculpture Park is located at 12580 Rott Road in St. Louis County, near Interstate 44 and Lindbergh Boulevard. The park is open daily from 8 a.m. until ½ hour past sunset. The museum is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays from 12 p.m. until 5 p.m. The museum is closed on Mondays and legal holidays. For more information, call 314-615-5278 or visit us at www.laumeier.org.

Laumeier Sculpture Park events and programs are made possible by operating support from St. Louis County Parks, the Regional Arts Commission, the Arts and Education Council and the Missouri Arts Council.

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Photos (high resolution versions or additional images available upon request):



Mark Newport discusses his exhibition, *Self-Made Man*, including *Bobbleman*, 2006, during a gallery talk in February. Photo by Mike Venso/Laumeier Sculpture Park



Mark Newport, *Sweaterman 3* (detail), 2005
hand knit acrylic and buttons
80 x 23 x 6"
courtesy of the artist
Photo by Mike Venso/Laumeier Sculpture Park