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MANITOGA / The Russel Wright Design Center
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MANITOGA / THE RUSSEL WRIGHT DESIGN CENTER PRESENTS RESIDENT ARTIST STEPHEN TALASNIK'S SANCTUARY

Manitoga / The Russel Wright Design Center in Garrison New York presents 2015 resident artist Stephen Talasnik's *SANCTUARY*. The large-scale installation is comprised of woven reed structures that will float in Manitoga's Quarry Pool adjacent to the original home of modernist designer Russel Wright (1904-1976). **The work will be on view to Manitoga's tour and program participants from May 1 through November 9, 2015.**

Talasnik was drawn to Manitoga's seamless architecture and natural splendor. "There is an intimacy to the choreographed environment that engages the senses. It compels the individual to confront an immediate and intimate space within a suggestively theatrical natural sanctuary".

Allison Cross, Manitoga's Executive Director says of Talasnik's work, "Similar to Wright's intervention at Manitoga, Talasnik's work occupies the intersection of art, innovation, science and nature and enters into a profound dialogue with place. Of the moment, it is variable and temporal, responding to the seasons and to changes in the environment."

In his lifetime, Russel Wright transformed Manitoga's abandoned quarry landscape into a place of astounding beauty and design. Of his own tenure here, Talasnik believes "the responsibility of the artist is to take nature and drag it through their own personal experience with the objective of creating a *new nature* - an organic, near seamless synthesis of nature and personal knowledge."

SANCTUARY will be a featured element of Manitoga's 2015 tour season. Artist led tours with Stephen Talasnik are scheduled for May 30 and October 17 at 1:30pm. Registration for these and other Manitoga events is available through BrownPaperTickets.com.

About Stephen Talasnik:

Inspired by the aesthetics of engineering, Talasnik's sculptural works intersect with his ongoing studio investigation of drawing. Intrigued with skeletal hand built structures, his approach to building is informed by his years of residency and travel in the Far East where he studied the traditions of indigenous hand built systems that employ natural materials.

Talasnik's work is included in major international collections including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY; The Pompidou in Paris; British Museum, London; The Albertina, Vienna; and The State Museum of Berlin. Additional information about the artist is available at www.stephentalasnik.com.

More quotes on *Sanctuary* from Stephen Talasnik:

“My temporary site specific installations in nature are designed to change with the effects of the environmental conditions. The piece is at its most vibrant when it is made, but once left to the elements, it lasts as long as it lasts. The piece is vulnerable to the same elements that are in a constant state of change themselves, nature. It is created, lives, and dies. There is a life span.”

“The piece is about process; both in how it is made, and how it is viewed; like a drawing, one deciphers the piece through the examination of line. How something is made is almost as important as what it looks like in the end. The linear nature enables the viewer to participate in the act of making since all line is exposed.”

“(*Sanctuary*) is organized, engineered, and built for the moment. It is here for a short time, a temporary aesthetic, much like the seasons.”

“I think that the spirit of Wright and of the natural environment is far more meaningful when we cherish the opportunity to examine the "moment.”

About Manitoga:

Located in Garrison, New York, approximately one hour north of New York City, Manitoga is the House, Studio and 75-acre woodland garden of American industrial designer Russel Wright (1904-1976). Manitoga is a National Historic Landmark, an Affiliate Site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and one of the few 20th century modern homes and landscapes open to the public in New York State. Manitoga / The Russel Wright Design Center preserves and shares Manitoga as a masterful integration of design and nature, a powerful example of land reclamation, and a resource for inspired design in daily living through public tours, programs and events.

The Artist Residency program was initiated to foster creative responses to Manitoga that invoke Russel Wright's legacy of creative experimentation and celebration of place.

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