

Hunters Point Parks CONSERVANCY

The Lachaise Foundation

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Gaston Lachaise Sculpture, *Floating Woman*, 1927, to be Installed in Hunter's Point South Park

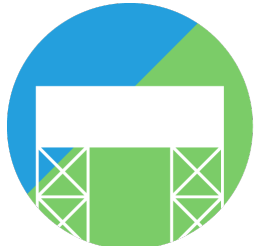
On **Thursday, September 24 at 3pm** The Lachaise Foundation and the Hunters Point Parks Conservancy will be hosting a brief, socially distant unveiling ceremony, with short dance performance by local dance company Karesia Batan | The Physical Plant to celebrate the addition of *Floating Woman* in Hunter's Point South Park. Members of the press are invited to attend. Event will occur by the sculpture, near the intersection of 51st Ave. and Center Blvd. **Follow by Live-stream:** @Paula_Hornbostel_LachaiseFoundation

Long Island City, NY – Hunters Point Parks Conservancy and the Lachaise Foundation are thrilled to announce the temporary installation of Gaston Lachaise's *Floating Woman (Floating Figure)* in Hunter's Point South Park.

The work is one of Lachaise's best-known, monumental works dating from the late twenties. The buoyant, expansive figure represents a timeless earth goddess, one Lachaise knew and sought to capture throughout his career. This vision was inspired by his wife, who was his muse and model, Isabel, that "majestic woman" who walked by him once by the Bank of the Seine. This work is a tribute to the power of all women, to 'Woman,' as the artist referred to his wife, with a capital W.

Gaston Lachaise devoted himself to the human form, producing a succession of powerfully conceived nude figures in stone and bronze that reinvigorated the sculptural traditions of Auguste Rodin and Aristide Maillol.

Lachaise wrote: "You may say that the model is my wife. It is a large generous figure of great placidity, great tranquility. . . What I am aiming to express is the glorification of the human being, of

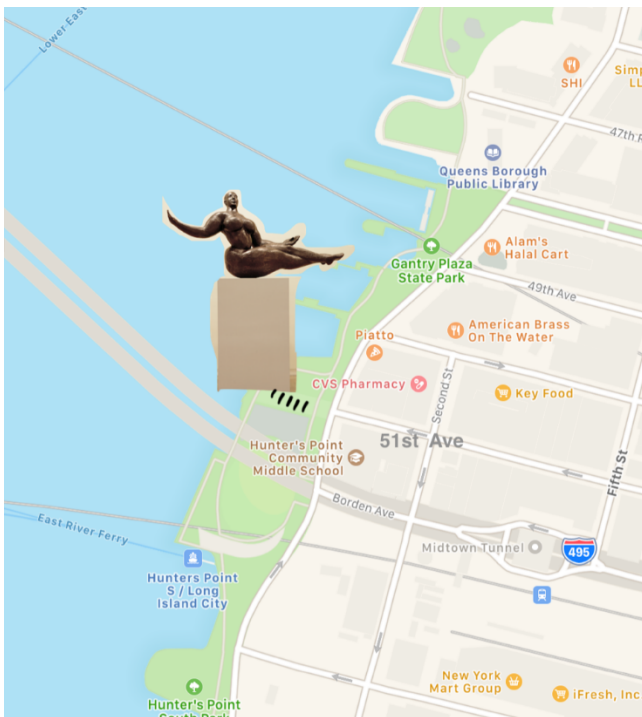


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the human body, of the human spirit with all there is of daring, magnificence. . .” (“A Comment on My Sculpture,” *Creative Art*, 1928).

A total of nine casts exist. Other casts can be seen at the Museum of Modern Art, NY; in Philadelphia at the Society Hill Towers, designed by I. M. Pei; at the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, Nebraska; at Princeton University in New Jersey; at the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra; and in the collection of the Musée d’Art Moderne de Paris.

The work was cast at the Modern Art Foundry in Astoria, Queens. This Queens connection, coupled with its visibility from the East River inspired the Lachaise foundation’s choice of Hunter’s Point South Park and the specific install location. The piece will sit by the water, on the West side of the old railroad tracks in the park, aligned with 51st Ave (see map below).



The Lachaise Foundation worked in partnership with Hunters Point Parks Conservancy, NYC Parks, and Community Board 2 on this installation. The piece will reside in Hunter’s Point South for one year. Installation is currently scheduled for September 24.

RELEVANT QUOTES



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Rob Basch, President of the Hunters Point Parks Conservancy said “We are thrilled that this powerful majestic woman will be welcoming visitors to the park and looking out for their safety. Thank you to the Lachaise Foundation and to New York City Parks for making this happen.”

Paula Hornbostel, Director of the Lachaise Foundation said “Placed at the end of the line of railroad tracks, the sculpture looks back at the historic city where Lachaise once thrived, and forward out across the East River, a harbinger of hope, beautifully situated in this elegant and dynamic but at the same time rustic Hunters Point South Park, a true oasis in a busy city. May this work empower women everywhere with its depiction of spiritual beauty. As Walt Whitman memorialized Brooklyn Ferry, Gilbert Seldes commemorated the work of Lachaise: “the ‘slow arrow of beauty’ vigorously expressing something of a civilization of which speed seems to be the god.” (Seldes, “Sculptor of Repose” *The New Republic*, 1928)

ABOUT THE LACHAISE FOUNDATION

The Lachaise Foundation is a charitable trust established in 1963 pursuant to the provisions of the Will of Isabel Lachaise, widow of Gaston Lachaise. The purpose of the Foundation is to protect, promote and perpetuate the artistic legacy of 20th century sculptor Gaston Lachaise for the public benefit.
www.lachaisefoundation.org

ABOUT HUNTERS POINT PARKS CONSERVANCY

The Hunters Point Parks Conservancy (HPPC) is a community-based non-profit organization whose mission is to enrich the quality of life in Hunters Point, Long Island City by preserving and enhancing its parks, green spaces, and waterfront in partnership with the community. Formed in 1998 as Friends of Gantry Plaza State Park, the organization expanded its mission and scope in 2013 with the opening of Hunter’s Point South Park and has been operating as HPPC since. www.hunterspointparks.org