

PRESS ADVISORY

MAY 23, 2016

Press Contact

Rachel Eggers
Manager of Public Relations
rachele@seattleartmuseum.org
206.654.3151

JOHN GRADE'S *MIDDLE FORK* TO BE INSTALLED IN SEATTLE ART MUSEUM'S BROTMAN FORUM

Massive reclaimed cedar sculpture to span length of museum's main entrance lobby in its largest iteration yet



SEATTLE
ART
MUSEUM

ASIAN
ART
MUSEUM

OLYMPIC
SCULPTURE
PARK

1300 First Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

206.625.8900

seattleartmuseum.org

SEATTLE, WA - The Seattle Art Museum announced today that *Middle Fork*, a large-scale sculpture by Seattle-based artist John Grade, will be installed in the museum's Brotman Forum in January 2017.

Grade created the highly detailed sculpture using a full plaster cast of a living old-growth hemlock tree found in the Cascade Mountains east of Seattle. The cast was then used as a mold to assemble a new tree from hundreds of thousands of reclaimed cedar segments.

Middle Fork will return home to Washington State from its recent installation in the *WONDER* exhibition at the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C. to "grow" yet again at SAM. The artist and a cadre of volunteers will bring the sculpture to its largest iteration yet—more than doubling from its current length of 50 feet to over 100 feet—so that it will dynamically span the entire length of the Brotman Forum, the museum's main entrance lobby that welcomes guests to the museum.

The first iteration of *Middle Fork* was fabricated in and debuted at Seattle's MadArt Studio January 25th-May 8th, 2015, before heading to the Renwick Gallery.

Support for the *Middle Fork* installation at SAM is provided by Weyerhaeuser, in addition to major donors to the museum.



ABOUT JOHN GRADE

John Grade (American, born 1970 in Minneapolis, MN) lives and works in Seattle, WA. Grade creates large-scale sculptures that are exhibited internationally in museums, galleries, and outdoors in urban spaces and nature. His projects are designed to change over time and often involve collaboration with large groups of people to build and install.

Upcoming exhibitions scheduled in the coming year include *Polar Lab* at the Anchorage Museum (AK) and site-specific sculptural installations in Portland (OR), Sun Valley (ID), and Craters of the Moon National Monument (ID).

Image credit: *Middle Fork*, 2016, John Grade, American, b. 1970, wood, 30 x 28 x 105 ft., Collection of the artist.

ABOUT SEATTLE ART MUSEUM

As the leading visual art institution in the Pacific Northwest, SAM draws on its global collections, powerful exhibitions, and dynamic programs to provide unique educational resources benefiting the Seattle region, the Pacific Northwest, and beyond. SAM was founded in 1933 with a focus on Asian art. By the late 1980s the museum had outgrown its original home, and in 1991 a new 155,000-square-foot downtown building, designed by Robert Venturi, Scott Brown & Associates, opened to the public. The 1933 building was renovated and reopened as the Asian Art Museum. SAM's desire to further serve its community was realized in 2007 with the opening of two stunning new facilities: the nine-acre Olympic Sculpture Park (designed by Weiss/Manfredi Architects)—a "museum without walls," free and open to all—and the Allied Works Architecture designed 118,000-square-foot expansion of its main, downtown location, including 232,000 square feet of additional space built for future expansion.

From a strong foundation of Asian art to noteworthy collections of African and Oceanic art, Northwest Coast Native American art, European and American art, and modern and contemporary art, the strength of SAM's collection of more than 25,000 objects lies in its diversity of media, cultures and time periods.