



## **World-Renowned Artist Sean Scully to Exhibit Seven Outdoor Sculptures along Upper Broadway**

For more information, contact: Anne Strauss: [astrauss@broadwaymall.org](mailto:astrauss@broadwaymall.org)

Andrew Genn: [agenn@broadwaymall.org](mailto:agenn@broadwaymall.org) 212-491-6470 (office) or 212-877-9122 (cell)

Mara Gans: [mara@lissongallery.com](mailto:mara@lissongallery.com) 212-505-6431 (office) or 201-575-4513 (cell)



“Stack Blues (In honor of Arthur Danto)”

On July 12, 2024, in one of the most exciting public-art developments in recent memory, “Sean Scully: Broadway Shuffle,” presented by the Broadway Mall Association, will open to the

public. Scully is one of the most celebrated artists of our time, and the exhibition will bring together a dazzling sequence of seven large-scale sculptures – each one a unique vertical stack composed from various configurations of metal, stone and wood. They will be presented at seven locations along the green medians at the center of Broadway from Lincoln Square to Washington Heights.

The Broadway Mall Association Board of Directors President, Nancy G. Chaffetz, stated: “This summer artist Sean Scully offers a most generous gift to the New York City public, ‘Sean Scully: Broadway Shuffle.’ On behalf of the Broadway Mall Association, many thanks to the artist, NYC Parks and Lisson Gallery for making the exhibition possible.”

The artist recently said: “Broadway is legendary, and it has been mythologized in art and song. I called my project “Shuffle” after a dance, in the same way that Mondrian, another geometric immigrant, called his painting “Boogie Woogie.” I love the idea of my blocks and stacks punctuating the endless rhythm of Broadway.”

Presented by the Broadway Mall Association, the exhibition is organized in partnership with NYC Parks’ Art in the Parks program and Lisson Gallery, with assistance from the Lincoln Square Business Improvement District. On view for eight months, until March 2025, Scully’s “Broadway Shuffle” is the fourteenth exhibition to be presented by the Broadway Mall Association since the founding of its Art on the Malls program in 2005.

Scully, who for five decades has been celebrated for his stripe-based abstract paintings, has also won acclaim for his extensive body of drawings, prints and pastels. His “Broadway Shuffle” is the first exhibition in the United States to focus exclusively on his sculpture, a practice that has engaged him for more than twenty years. Like his paintings, with their blocks and bands of sensuous, sometimes smoldering color, the sculptures also offer a daring distillation of color and geometric form. Yet, in place of the soft-edged forms and intimations of landscape found in his paintings, the sculptures relate more closely to the hard forms of the city. Their grids and bands rise as high as 20 feet tall and echo the towering energy of New York. Although they belong to the high-art realm of abstract sculpture, they are also unusually relatable, providing

viewers with a chance to experience art not within the confines of a gallery but outdoors, in the open air, in relation to the soaring architecture of the city.

As the art critic Lilly Wei recently commented, “I envision Sean’s stacked sculptures as a relay race up Broadway, marking and connecting us to all the different neighborhoods en route. It’s a kind of six-mile pilgrimage and I can’t wait to make it.”

The art critic Deborah Solomon, an Upper West Sider, added: “It will be a thrill to have Scully’s sublime, neo-Constructivist sculptures as a constant presence in my daily treks up and down Broadway. I don’t know of another artist whose work references the city with so much passion and so little trace of cheap irony.”

Karen Wilkin, the art critic, noted: “Sean has always offered the unexpected, presenting us with often surprising variations on deceptively straightforward geometry and color.”

Two of the seven sculptures, “48” and “Composite Grey Silver,” will be fabricated especially for this project. A third sculpture, “Stack Blues (In honor of Arthur Danto),” will be presented as a tribute to Arthur Danto, the late art critic and philosophy professor. It will be installed at Broadway and 117th Street, adjacent to the Columbia University campus where Danto spent decades teaching.

Another sculpture, “Sleeper Stack 2,” is an 8-and-a-half-foot-tall stack of actual “railway sleepers,” the British term for the wooden beams used to secure railroad tracks. The sculpture will be installed at Broadway and 72nd Street, in recognition of the historic MTA subway station located on that site.

“Shot Through,” by contrast, is a 12-foot-tall stack of 24 Corten steel plates whose richly weathered brown-to-rust coloration is the result of the natural lifespan of its industrial materials. It differs from the other sculptures in the exhibition in that a large hole is “shot through” its middle section. It’s, in effect, a porthole, allowing viewers to peer through it and catch a glimpse of the cityscape beyond. One can also read the hole as an absence or a void. Scully said that he

made the sculpture in direct response to 9/11 and the lives lost in the destruction of the World Trade Center.

Scully's stacked sculptures are also informed by personal experience. As a 15-year-old student, he worked every Saturday at a Woolworth's store in the Sydenham neighborhood, in southeast London. His job was to re-stock the shelves with various products that were running low, and then to flatten the cardboard boxes in which the goods had arrived, recycling them. To this end, he used a baling machine, which arranges and compresses large quantities of boxes into orderly stacks or columns. Scully later remarked: "This is where I became a young sculptor." He admired the tidy cardboard stacks that emerged from the baling machine and would display them, in spontaneously-curated installations, behind the store. "They were all virtually, though not completely, identical, and they were amazing in their repetition and variety to look at. Now when I make sculptures, I make them almost the same way. I squeeze all the air and space out, by stacking."

Following, a list of the seven sculptures in the show:

"48," 2024, Aluminum and automotive paint, 20 ft x 74 in. x 74 in. (6 x 1.8 x 1.8 m); *Broadway and 64th Street (Dante Park)*

"Sleeper Stack 2," 2018, Railway sleepers, 8.6 x 4 x 4 ft. (2.6 x 1.2 x 1.2 m); *Broadway and 72nd Street*

"Silver Brown Tower," 2019, Corten and stainless steel, 9 x 3 x 3 ft. (274.3 x 91.4 x 91.4 cm); *Broadway and 79th Street*

"Composite Grey Silver," 2024, Corten, stainless steel and marble, 85.5 x 50 x 50 in. (217.1 x 127 x 127 cm); *Broadway and 103rd Street*

"Stack Blues (In honor of Arthur Danto)," 2018, Aluminum and automotive paint, 9 x 4 x 4 ft. (274 x 122 x 122 cm); *Broadway and 117th Street*

“Shot Through,” 2019, Corten steel, 12 x 6 x 6 ft. (3.7 x 1.8 x 1.8 m); *Broadway and 157th Street (Ilka Tanya Payán Park)*

“Shadow Stack,” 2019, Corten steel, 14.7 x 8.2 x 8.5 ft. (4.5 x 2.5 x 2.6 m); *Broadway and 167th Street (Mitchel Square)*

All works are Courtesy of the Artist and Lisson Gallery.

The Broadway Mall Association is partnering with the Program in Art and Art Education at Teachers College, Columbia University to create an art curriculum focused on Scully’s work and the “Broadway Shuffle” exhibition to provide to local K-12 schools. This educational tool will invite learners to experience the sculptures of Sean Scully and the New York City spaces around them, inspire the imagination, and encourage children and teens to consider life in a city that connects people, art, and nature.

*About the artist, briefly:* Scully, an American artist, was born in Dublin in 1945 and raised in south London. He came to the United States in 1972, when he was awarded the Frank Knox Fellowship at Harvard University. In 1975, he moved to New York, and he became a citizen in 1983. He has been honored with significant one-man exhibitions at more than fifty museums globally, including, in the United States, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, D.C., and the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford, Connecticut. Outside of the U.S., his exhibitions have been organized by, among others, the National Gallery in London, the Albertina in Vienna, and the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra. He was the first Western artist to have a full retrospective that toured several museums in China. Scully’s work is in the permanent collection of virtually every major museum here and abroad. He is currently represented by Lisson Gallery, Thaddaeus Ropac, Galerie Max Hetzler and Kerlin Gallery.

*About the Broadway Mall Association*

The Broadway Mall Association (BMA) is a nonprofit that stewards, advocates, and cares for the 5-mile environmental resource in the heart of upper Manhattan. The 83 verdant malls from 70th Street to 168th Street stretch from the Upper West Side through Harlem to Washington Heights.

In addition to preserving and protecting the 10.6 acres of malls along Broadway, BMA stages museum-quality public-art exhibitions for the benefit of the local communities that Broadway traverses as well as visitors to the area. For more information, visit [broadwaymall.org](http://broadwaymall.org).

#### *About Art on the Malls*

Art on the Malls, the Broadway Mall Association's program to enliven the Broadway malls with contemporary art, was launched in 2005 with the major exhibition "Tom Otterness on Broadway." Since then, BMA has exhibited the work of more than 20 internationally recognized artists, including Carole Eisner, Manolo Valdés, Peter Woytuk, Saint Clair Cemin, Dan Colen, Don Gummer, Joy Brown, Kathy Ruttenberg, Nicolas Holiber, Jon Isherwood, and, now, Sean Scully. For more information, visit [broadwaymall.org/public-art](http://broadwaymall.org/public-art).

#### *About NYC Parks Art in the Parks*

For nearly 60 years, NYC Parks' Art in the Parks program has brought contemporary public artworks to the city's parks, making New York City one of the world's largest open-air galleries. The agency has consistently fostered the creation and installation of temporary public art in parks throughout the five boroughs. Since 1967, NYC Parks has collaborated with arts organizations and artists to produce more than 3,000 public artworks by 1,500 notable and emerging artists in more than 200 parks. For more information, visit [nyc.gov/parks/art](http://nyc.gov/parks/art).

#### *About Lisson Gallery*

Lisson Gallery is one of the most influential and longest-running international contemporary art galleries. It supports and promotes the work of more than 60 artists across spaces in London, New York, Los Angeles, Shanghai and Beijing. Established in London in 1967, Lisson has represented pioneering Minimal and Conceptual artists, important British sculptors, and a generation of younger artists. For more information, visit <https://www.lissongallery.com/>.

#### *About Lincoln Square BID*

The Lincoln Square BID is responsible for the maintenance of the Broadway malls from 60th Street to 70th Street. For more information, visit [lincolnsquarebid.org](http://lincolnsquarebid.org).

Photo caption: Sean Scully, “Stack Blues (In honor of Arthur Danto),” 2018. Aluminum and automotive paint, 9 x 4 x 4 ft. (274 x 122 x 122 cm), edition 3/3. © Sean Scully. Photo by Robert Bean.



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