

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **VICTORIA HAVEN: BLUE SUN OPENS AT OLYMPIC SCULPTURE PARK SAT APR 2**

April 2, 2016–March 5, 2017



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SEATTLE, WA - SAM's Olympic Sculpture Park presents *Victoria Haven: Blue Sun*, a dramatic wall drawing of a series of bold crystalline forms that traverses the entire length of the east wall of the park's PACCAR Pavilion.

Noted Seattle artist Victoria Haven is known for her geometric abstractions, which range from delicate constellations to bold forms that engage with the surrounding architecture and environment. Her work continually draws connections between landscape, history, and lived experience.

The design of *Blue Sun*—her largest wall drawing to date—is inspired by a recent video in which Haven filmed the radical transformation of Seattle's South Lake Union neighborhood from her studio window over a ten-month period. At certain times during the year, the camera recorded unusual optical effects that made the sun appear as a blue dot. These were not natural phenomena that a viewer could see when looking at the landscape; they were effects created by the optical apparatus, resulting from the light reflected on the camera lens.

As the arc of the sun progressed from winter into spring and then summer, other patterns emerged from the reflections of the sun on nearby buildings in the city. This imaginary geography is reflected in the abstract constellations of *Blue Sun*, which also echo in weight and volume the Olympic Mountain range to the West and dynamically interact with other sculptures at the park.

"The massive forms of *Blue Sun* seem to move in space weightlessly, passing by like a cluster of stars," says Catharina Manchanda, SAM's Jon & Mary Shirley Curator of Modern & Contemporary Art. "Haven's work is often indelibly tied to the sense of place found in the Northwest, so I'm looking forward to seeing how this piece enlivens the park's pavilion across the coming seasons."



**Image credit:** Concept sketch detail for *Blue Sun*, 2016. Image courtesy 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.