Like a modern version of philosopher Henry David Thoreau, the artist Sam Falls treks into the wilderness, traversing many of America’s national parks for aesthetic inspiration and bringing back from these solitude notations of the natural world. Falls even submerges underwater (like sea-explorer Jacques Cousteau) to create compositions on large sheets of canvas that capture the glimmering experiences of the life aquatic. Using powdered colored pigments and the baking sun, Falls creates paintings that aim to “photogram” the natural world, recording captured even submerges underwater (like sea-explorer Jacques Cousteau) of America’s national parks for aesthetic inspiration and bringing the artist Sam Falls treks into the wilderness, traversing many areas and magnified scale present within the canvas equates to the perspective of a stalking predator.

After his initial site visit to Laumeier, Falls worked with the Park’s master gardener to curate a customized garden of flowers and grasses. Falls expended the bounty that resulted from their partnership on two monumental sculptures using l-beams and brightly glazed clay tiles, placed in Laumeier’s Eastern Woodland. The horizontal work, Super Bloom, 2019, rests within a slope of recently cleared poison ivy and honeysuckle, positioned as if struck by a violent thunderstorm and left to be reclaimed by vegetation, moving through numerous tints and tones, expressive, vibrant and whimsical. Here, the ceramic-lined totem is staked in earthy glazes, expressive brushstrokes and dribbles of glaze are trapped with the cold industrial material of the steel I-beam. Similarly, Spring, 2019, is a vertical beam with cascading nature, embed a multiplicity of art historical references and minimize his own role in the process of creating the work. Falls’s exhibition is an examination of the density in nature, an examination that is active yet calm, cerebral and untamed.

Dana Turkovic, Curator

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY
Sam Falls (b. 1984) was raised in Vermont. He received his BA from Reed College in 2007 and his MFA from ICP-Bard in 2010. He has had solo exhibitions at 303 Gallery, New York; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art Trento and Rovereto, Italy; The Kitchen, New York; Ballarat, Marfa, Texas; Pomona College Museum of Art; Public Art Fund; New York; and LAXART, Los Angeles, among others. His work has been included in group exhibitions at the Aspen Art Museum, Colorado; Le Consortium, Dijon; Columbus Museum of Art, Ohio; Mead Gallery, University of Warwick, England; Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland; Hamme Museum, Los Angeles; Menil Collection, Houston; MUSE MADRE, Naples; and the International Center of Photography, New York, among others. Falls lives and works in Los Angeles.
SAM FALLS
AUGUST 24 — DECEMBER 22, 2019

FREE PROGRAMS

OPENING RECEPTION / COFFEE + CONVERSATION
Saturday, August 24, 2019 / 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
Join Curatorial Director Tanya Bonakdar for a discussion with artist Sam Falls about his current exhibition in the Activation Live Arts Center and new outdoor commission in the Park. Appropriate for all ages. Conversation begins at 10 a.m.

FREE FAMILY DAY
Creative Nature
Sunday, September 8, 2019 / 2 p.m.–4 p.m.
Play with shapes, textures and colors in activities that will get you creative with nature.

COFFEE + CONVERSATION
Fall Planting
Saturday, September 14, 2019 / 10 a.m.
Celebrate autumn and prepare for next spring. Join us for a discussion on how to create a beautiful seasonal garden bed, and sustain it through winter by learning some handy practices, and plant spring-blooming bulbs.

2019 exhibitions are supported by Ken and Nancy Kranzberg, Mitchell and Joan Markow, Mary Ann and Andy Srenco, and Ellen and DuBi Curlee.

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Sam Falls
detail of Super Bloom, 2019
Ceramic, steel I-beam
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Sam Falls
Untitled (Big Sur), 2018
Pigment on canvas
© Sam Falls; courtesy 303 Gallery, New York; Galerie Eva Presenhuber, New York & Zurich; and Galleria Franco Noero, Torino.

Sam Falls
Spring Glass, 2016
Pigment on canvas
© Sam Falls; courtesy 303 Gallery, New York; Galerie Eva Presenhuber, New York & Zurich; and Galleria Franco Noero, Torino.