



X

Gamelatron: Sonic Kinetic Sculptures

Aaron Taylor Kuffner

2018

Aaron Taylor Kuffner



New York based conceptual artist Aaron Taylor Kuffner immersed himself in the art of Indonesian gamelan during his time living in Java and Bali. Over the last decade Kuffner has dedicated himself to a series of sonic kinetic sculptures that preserve and reinterpret this ancient tradition by retrofitting augmented hand forged gamelan instruments with mechanical mallets that robotically playback his original compositions by way of a proprietary physical computing network. He calls the artworks Gamelatrons.

Kuffner is a trained painter and metal sculptor, a former street artist, theatre director, international DJ and music producer. Kuffner studied at the Institut Seni Inodenesia Yogyakarta, where he embraced the traditions of both the gamelan and village life. Dedicated to expanding the legacy and creative cultural power of Gamelan through innovation, Kuffner's viscerally powerful installation, site-specific performances strives to create a harmony in the tension of fusing the East and the West, the Modern and the Ancient.

Kuffner has performed and exhibited work more than 400 times in 22 countries in the last eighteen years. He has created more than twenty Gamelatron sculptures in the last seven years. His recent installations have been exhibited by the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles, California (2017); the Drawing Center, New York (2016); 56th Venice Biennale at the Palazzo Grimani Museum Venice (2015); The Sackler Gallery at the Smithsonian Institute, Washington D.C. (2013); and The Clocktower Gallery, New York (2012). He also received grants, in-kind supports and awards from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts in association with the Clocktower Gallery, New York; The trust for Mutual Understanding; The Experimental Television Center; The New York Council for the Arts; Ableton Gmhb; The CEC Artslink; Scope Arts; Artist Wanted; Techshop; The New Orleans Airlift; The Indonesian Foreign Ministry; The Dharmasiswa Scholarship; The Berlin Arts Council; The European Commission; I-D Media Berlin; Schloss Brollin Art Labor; The Black Rocks Arts Foundation; The James F. Robison Foundation; The Soros Foundation; Swiss Air; The Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation; the US Artists International partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts; and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Kuffner has also been commissioned by the Renwick Gallery at the Smithsonian Institute to install a new artwork opening to the public in March 2018.

Aaron Taylor Kuffner

Born in New York, 1975 | Lives and works in New York

Noted Exhibitions

- 2018 Crossing Collective, Solo Show, Chelsea, NY
Smithsonian Institute Renwick Gallery, DC
- 2017 The Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA
Ion Studios, Soho, NY
The Chimney, Brooklyn, NY
- 2016 The Drawing Center, Soho, NY
- 2015 The New York Hall of Science, Queens, NY
The 56th Venice Biennale, Palazzo Grimani
The Chimney, Brooklyn, NY
- 2014 Ace Hotel, New York
Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art
- 2013 Smithsonian Institute Sackler Gallery, DC
Sundaram Tagore Gallery, Hong Kong
Times Square Alliance, New York
Sundaram Tagore Gallery, Singapore
- 2012 The Clocktower Gallery, New York, NY
Metro Toronto Convention Center, Toronto, CN
- 2011 TechShop Annex, San Francisco, CA 2011 - 2014
Music Box Shanty Town, New Orleans, LA 2011
The University of Colorado at Boulder 2011
Sundaram Tagore Gallery, Chelsea NYC 2011

Event Appearances

- 2017 The Man Base, Burningman
- 2016 The Federal Hall, NYC
- 2016 - 2015 Summit Series, Summit at Sea
- 2015 Symbiosis Gathering, Oakdale, CA
- 2015 Latitude, Sussex, UK
- 2015 - 2013 Body and Soul Festival, Ireland
- 2013 Summit Series, Summit Outside
- 2013 - 2011 The Temple at Burningman, Nevada
- 2013 - 2009 PEX Summer Festival, Maryland 2012
Fuji Rock, Niigata Prefecture, Japan
University of Dayton Dayton, Ohio
- 2012 - 2010 Electric Picnic, Stradbally, Ireland
Boom, Idanha-a-nova, Portugal 2012 - 2010
Lightning in a Bottle, Irvine, CA
- 2010 The Joshua Tree Music Festival, CA
Proekt Fabrika Theater, Moscow, Russia
Vozduh Hall, Moscow, Russia
The Experimental Sound Gallery, St. Petersburg, Russia
Apostista Music Forum at Manege Hall, St. Petersburg, Russia
Telfair Museum, Savannah, GA
- 2009 The World Financial Center, NYC
- 2008 Pittsburgh Children's Museum, Pittsburg, PA
New Britain Museum of American Art, CN



Gamelatron Gandaberunda, 2017, Temple of the Golden Spike, Burning Man

Gamelatron: Sonic Kinetic Sculptures, is Kuffner's first at Crossing Collective, and explores his ongoing dialogue with the emerging field of robotics in which sonic sculptures expose us to the rich and profound nature of resonance and its effect on the psyche.

Each Gamelatron is its own orchestra, and draws upon Indonesia's thousand-year-old tradition of gamelan ensembles. These handcrafted, masterfully-tuned orchestras of vibraphones, drums, chimes, bells, and resonating bronze gongs played by robotic mallets are installed to immerse the observer in living kinetic sculptures. Compositions range from solitary reverberations of massive gongs and singing chimes to full ritual or storytelling orchestrations. Kuffner uses exhibitions of these Gamelatrions to create sanctuaries both in public and private spaces and views the body of the work as an offering to the observer.

The exhibition, which includes over thirteen different types of Gamelatrions, including six new works by Kuffner that have never been seen before, will begin on January 18, 2018. Gallery hours are Tuesday–Saturday 10am–6pm. For more information about this exhibition and special events during the exhibition including soundhealing and meditation workshops and artist talks, please visit www.crossing-collective.com.

Crossing Collective, a wholly owned subsidiary of Crossing Art Projects, is a concept platform founded to promote a select group of contemporary artists, fabricators, and designers; all whom pay homage to heritage using the traditional techniques and timeless production methods of the past. The Collective offers a range of services including Educational Programming and Exhibitions in its 559 W. 23rd Street space, Curatorial Advisory, Cultural Tours, and an online storefront. Its mission is to forge closer ties between the East and West, and to inspire the appreciation and understanding of art and design and its role in society.

Single

Toned

Vindfulness



Single Tone Mindfulness Sculpture, 229hz Garis, 2017



Single Tone Mindfulness Sculpture, 83hz 10 times to the heart, 2017



Single Tone Mindfulness Sculpture, 436hz pancu dalam, 2017



Single Tone Mindfulness Sculpture 68hz Garis (85cm), 2017



Single Tone Mindfulness Sculpture 71hz, 2017



Body Phones, 2017

Single Tone Mindfulness Sculptures are a series of sound producing artworks that focus on a single resonance from an acoustic source. Artworks are named for the size of the wave lengths the acoustic source produces recorded in Hertz. Single Tone Mindfulness Sculptures are rooted in interactive conceptual rules geared towards increasing mindfulness and awareness of self and surrounding. Pieces often have a programable countdown timer which triggers the sound to play. The user is asked to set an intention when they set the timer and to use the resonance as a reminder of the intention they set. Other artworks in the series use sets of celestial data to trigger the resonance through the day in an effort to draw a connection with larger celestial bodies.

The Gammelatron



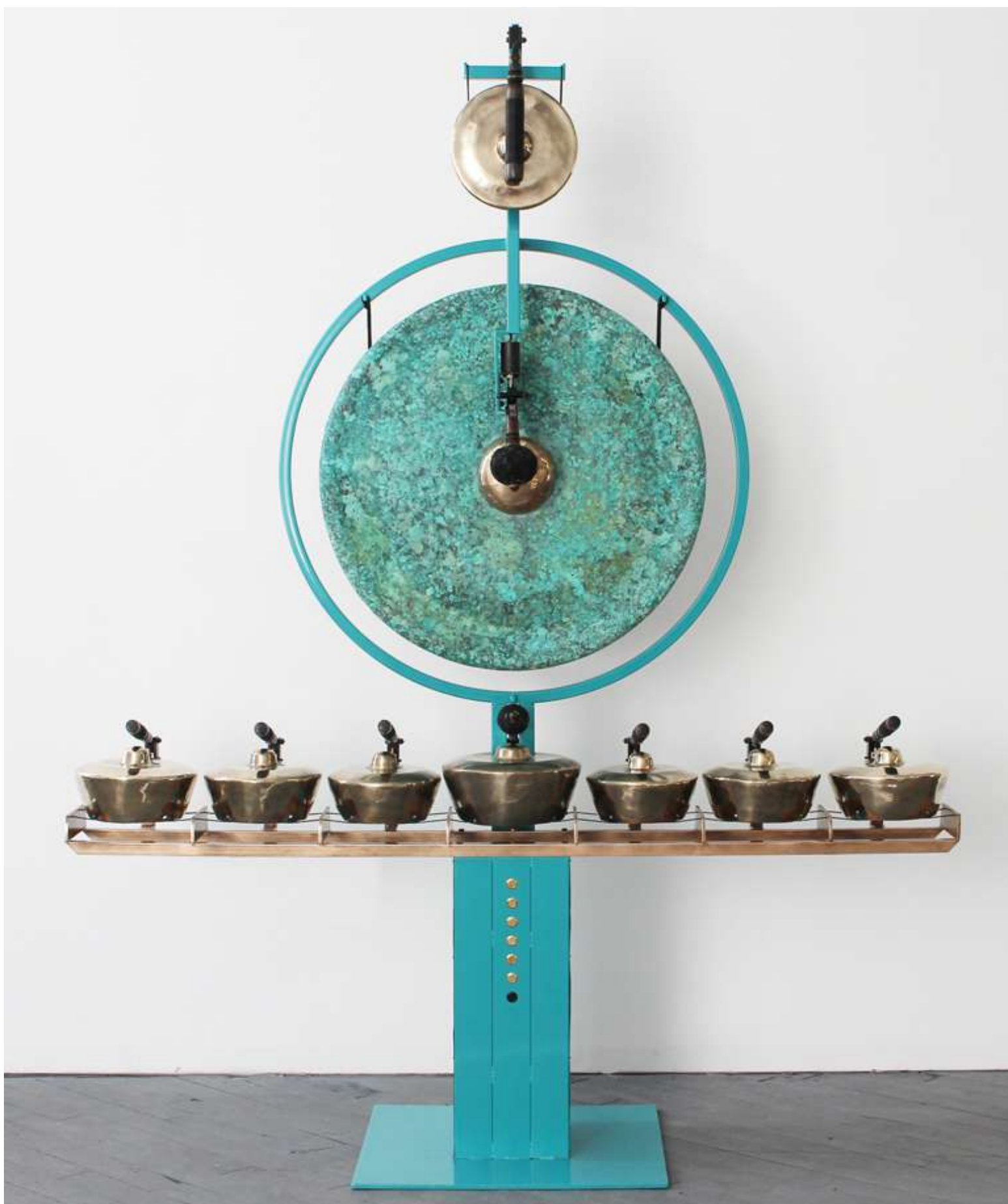
Gamelatron Lengkung Riat, 2017

Over the last nine years Kuffner has built more than forty Gamelatrons of various sizes, instrumentations and intentions. The collection of Gamelatron works are shown in diverse settings around the globe ranging from museums to retreat centers, spas, private homes, unique public spaces, educational institutions, cultural centers and at exceptional events.

GAMELATRON



Gamelatron Cakrawala, 2017



Gamelatron Pohon Electrum, 2015

Kuffner's mission is to bring the legacy and creative cultural power of the gamelatron to new shores, new people and communities to create an intimate experience with acoustic resonance. The essence of the Gamelatron is in the live experience.

The instruments, robotic mechanisms, and sculptural mounting systems are all handmade. The Instruments are usually made from copper and tin, forged into shape and tune. All compositions are written and performed by Aaron Taylor Kuffner. Scores are unique for every gamelatron set and are often site responsive composed after installation.



Gamelatron Menara Bende, 2017



Gamelatron Pink Besi Nong, 2015



Gamelatron Dewata Damai, 2017



Gamelatron Veja Yanta, Meditation Sala, 2016
Phuket, Thailand





Single Tone Mindfulness Sculpture 91hz and 83hz Garis, 2016



Single Tone Mindfulness Sculpture, 58hz Pancu Dalam, 2016



Gamelatron Zaman Tembaga, 2016



Single Tone Mindfulness Sculpture: 81.8hz Garis, 2016



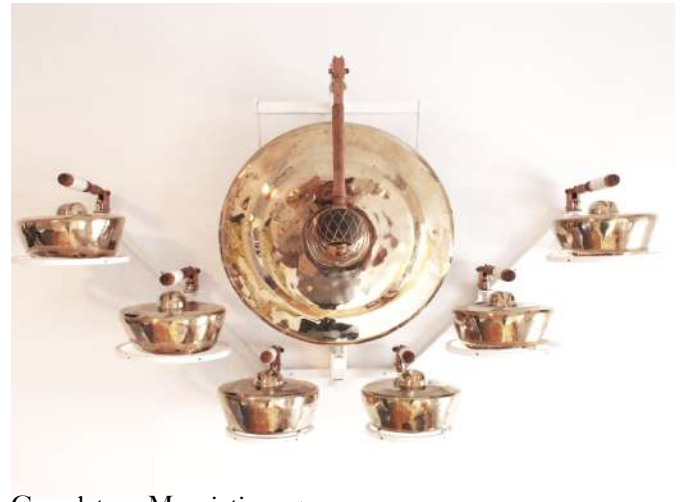
Gamelatron Cemerlang, 2015, Summit at Sea



Gamelatron Pohon Emas, 2017



Gamelatron Veja Yanta, Dining Sala, 2015



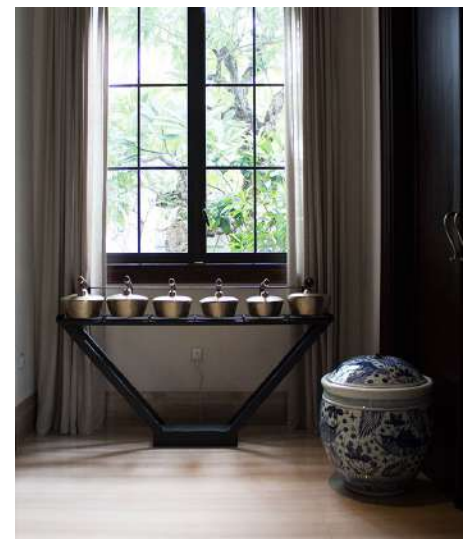
Gamelatron Murniati, 2015



Gamelatron Bunganya Dewa, 2016, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, California



Gamelatron Kebangkitan: The Red Birds, 2015



Gamelatron Gelombang Dewa-Dewi, 2014, Jakarta Indonesia

Crossing Collective Exhibition – New York, NY



Gam-051

Gamelatron Cakrawala (Indonesian: Horizon), 2017

Mirror Polished and patinated hand forged Javanese Gongs, Copper Patinated Steel, Bronze anodized architectural aluminum and stained wood robotic mallets, LED light pucks, with physical computing system

105 x 17 x 32 in | 266.7 x 43.18 x 81.28 cm

\$70,000.00



STMS-029

Single Tone Mindfulness Sculpture, 436hz pancu dalam, 2017

Polished bronze Javanese bonang, silicon bronze mounting sculpture with digital countdown timer

13 x 10 x 8 in | 33.02 x 25.4 x 20.32 cm

\$5,800.00



Gam-050

Gamelatron Lengkung Riak (Indonesian: Curved Ripple), 2017

7 Javanese Gongs patinated blue black with gold ripples, black patinated steel and silicon bronze mounting sculpture, bronze anodized and teak mallet robotic mechanisms, with physical computing system

47 x 17 x 54 in | 119.38 x 43.18 x 137.16 cm

\$39,500.00



STMS-028

Single Tone Mindfulness Sculpture, 83hz 10 times to the heart, 2017

Mirror polished patinated bronze convex gong, powder coated steel, digital relay switch

33 x 14 x 33 in | 83.82 x 35.56 x 83.82 cm

\$19,500.00



STMS-027

Body Phones, 2017

2 Patinated Steel gongs with welded brass knobs, Powder coated steel, 2 wood, bicycle tire and fabric mallets with robotic mechanisms, physical computing system

67 x 54 x 64 in | 170.18 x 137.16 x 162.56 cm

\$74,500.00

Crossing Collective Exhibition – New York, NY



STMS-026

Single Tone Mindfulness Sculpture, 71hz, 2017

Patinated mirror polished Bronze Javanese Gong, white powder coated steel, Black cord, countdown timer

30 x 12 x 45 in | 76.2 x 30.48 x 114.3 cm

\$19,500.00



Gam-046

Gamelatron Gandaberunda (2-headed mythical creature) 2017

Mirror Polished Javanese Gongs, red powder coated steel with red anodized aluminum and teak wood robotic mechanisms, LED pucks, physical computing system

(2) 154 x 14 x 70 in | 391.16 x 35.56 x 177.8 cm

\$285,000.00



Gam-044

Gamelatron Dewata Damai (Indonesian: The Gods of Peace), 2017

Balinese Bronze Gongs, White Powder Coated Steel, Teak and anodized copper robotics, physical computing system

(2) 71 x 14 x 36 in | 180.34 x 35.56 x 91.44 cm

\$105,000.00



Gam-039

Gamelatron Menara Bende (Indonesian: Tower of Bende styled Gongs), 2017

5 mirror polished bronze Javanese Bende Gongs, white powder coated steel with wood and bleached batik mallets and copper anodized robotic mechanisms, halogen lights, physical computing system

17 x 12 x 104 in | 43.18 x 30.48 x 264.16 cm

\$45,000.00



STMS-020

Single Tone Mindfulness Sculpture, 68hz Garis (Indonesian: Stripe), 2017

85cm diameter bronze gong with a sanded / polished vertical stripe, silicon bronze mounting sculpture with copper anodized robotic mechanism, digital countdown timer

34 x 14 x 38 in | 86.36 x 25.56 x 96.53 cm

\$22,500.00

Crossing Collective Exhibition – New York, NY



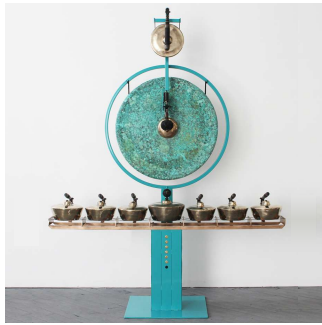
STMS-017

Single Tone Mindfulness Sculpture, 229hz Garis (Indoensian: Stripe), 2017

Bronze gong with a sanded / polished vertical stripe, silicon bronze mounting sculpture with copper anodized robotic mechanism, digital countdown timer

10 x 16 x 10 in | 25.4 x 40.64 x 25.4 cm

\$5,800.00



Gam-025

Gamelatron Pohon Electrum (Indoensian: Greengold Tree), 2015

Balinese Bronze Gongs polished and patinated, Turquoise powder coated steel, Silicon Bronze rack, black anodized aluminum and wood robotic mechanisms, physical computing system

70 x 24 x 90 in | 177.8 x 60.96 x 228.6 cm

\$65,000.00



Gam-023

Gamelatron Pink Besi Nong (Indoensian: Iron Kenong styled gong), 2015

6 Iron and brass Javanese kenong gongs, Pink powder coated steel, black anodized aluminum and Hibiscus wood robotic mallets, physical computing system

70 x 35 x 46 in | 177.8 x 88.9 x 116.84 cm

\$32,500.00

Please join the conversation with Crossing Collective on Twitter (@CrossingArt), Facebook (@CrossingCollective) and Instagram (@CrossingCollective), via the hashtags

#GamelatronCrossing #Gamelatron #AaronTaylorKuffner #CrossingCollective

For a complete inventory list and further information on site-specific commissions, please contact elise@crossing-collective.com



www.Crossing-Collective.com

New York • 559 W. 23rd Street • New York, NY 10011 T: 212.359.4333

Shanghai • 21F, No.500 Hongqiao Rd • Xuhui District, Shanghai 20 20030 T: 86 21 5383 0999

