

## 2015-J6486

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 40th Anniversary of Sculpture Space on June 17, 2016, and paying tribute to this year's honorees

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to call attention to individuals and organizations that devote their time and energies to the cultural enrichment of the Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of Sculpture Space celebrated at a Tribute on Friday, June 17, 2016, at The Dorothy Smith Center for Advocacy at The Resource Center for Independent Living, Utica, New York, and paying tribute to this year's honorees; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious event will also recognize friends of Sculpture Space, talented artists and leaders of the art world, Sylvia de Swaan and Jonathan Kirk; and

WHEREAS, Sculpture Space is a non-profit organization which supports sculptors from Utica, New York, as residency participants, as well as those who continue sculpting after their residencies; approximately 20 artists every year are accepted into its two-month residency program; and

WHEREAS, Since the late 1970s, Sculpture Space has been instrumental in helping hundreds of national and international sculptors alike advance their careers; and

WHEREAS, For 40 years, Sculpture Space has encouraged interaction between national and international artists and the local community in Utica and the nearby region; and

WHEREAS, True to its mission, Sculpture Space hosts various studio tours, places works in public domain and welcomes school groups to meet the working artists; this vital organization also collaborates with

other groups in exhibiting the projects of many artists, and conducts lectures at learning institutions such as Hamilton College, Syracuse University, Colgate University, Pratt at Munson Williams Proctor Institute, Utica College, Onondaga Community Colleges and other universities; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Sculpture Space offers the Artist-in-Residence Program, providing equipment, space, assistance and various specialized resources for residents of the Mohawk Valley; the public is invited to work-in-progress receptions wherein the artists themselves share something about their careers and their works; artworks which have been made and first seen in Utica is often exhibited in many galleries, sculpture parks and museums around the globe; and

WHEREAS, Sylvia de Swaan is a Romanian born visual artist/photographer who has lived, worked and exhibited in Mexico, Europe and the United States; she moved from New Orleans, Louisiana, to Central New York in the late 1970s, and has been actively involved in the Mohawk Valley art community ever since; and

WHEREAS, An internationally exhibited artist, Sylvia de Swaan was the first Executive Director of Sculpture Space from 1979-1995, and has served as an independent curator; in addition, she was a visiting faculty member of the art department at Hamilton College; and

WHEREAS, During her tenure at Sculpture Space, Sylvia de Swaan stabilized the organization and established its credibility by broadening its aesthetic orientation, linking it to the national and international arts community by making it a founding member of the National Association of Artists Organizations, and the National Alliance of Artists' Communities; and

WHEREAS, Under Sylvia de Swaan's luminous guidance, Sculpture Space received a New York State Governor's Art Award and a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Award for the uniqueness of its services to the art field; and

WHEREAS, After she left Sculpture Space in 1995, Sylvia de Swaan has enjoyed travelling and has devoted herself to perfecting her personal photographic work; and

WHEREAS, For her incredible work, Sylvia de Swaan was the recipient of grants from the New York Foundation for the Arts, Aaron Siskind Foundation, ArtsLink, Light Work, Constance Saltonstall Foundation, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, Austrian Ministry of Culture, and Anderson Ranch Art Center, as well as Society for Photographic Education; and

WHEREAS, Born in Saffron Walden, Great Britain, Jonathan Kirk earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from St. Martins School of Art, London, in 1978; he furthered his education by obtaining his Master in Fine Arts degree from Syracuse University in 1980; and

WHEREAS, A gifted artist, Jonathan Kirk has received grants and awards from the Constance Saltonstall Foundation, New York Foundation for the Arts, the Pollock Krasner Foundation, the Adolph and Esther Gottlieb Foundation, the Ludwig Vogelstein Foundation, and the Elizabeth Green-shields Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Jonathan Kirk has shown his spectacular work in various group and solo exhibitions and some of his pieces are in permanent collections throughout the East Coast, and at the Griffiss International Sculpture Garden in Rome; and

WHEREAS, From 1980-2000, Jonathan Kirk held the position of Studio Manager of Sculpture Space; in this capacity, he directed the expansion and renovation of the facility through a grant from the MacArthur Foundation, which was matched by the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, Currently, Jonathan Kirk continues to live and work in Utica, and is represented by the Robert Steele Gallery in Chelsea, New York City; and

WHEREAS, As managers of Sculpture Space, Sylvia de Swaan and Jonathan Kirk formed a cooperative working relationship, making it possible for them to achieve great successes on minimal resources; together, they

oversaw the purchase of the building, which had been part of the Utica Steam Engine & Boiler Works Factory; and

WHEREAS, Today, under the guidance and leadership of President, Helen Madden, Sculpture Space remains committed to providing artists with the time and resources to fully explore their creative potential, and

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continues to expand public awareness of and support for contemporary art by creating opportunities for artists to share their work with the community through exhibitions, lectures, and educational outreach; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to commemorate those events which add strength, vigor and inspiration to the cultural diversity and quality of life in the communities of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, It is most fitting that we take time to celebrate the arts of our Nation, to honor our artists, and to express our appreciation to everyone who patronizes the arts; and as we celebrate the arts, we celebrate and give thanks to our American freedom, the only atmosphere in which artists can truly create and in which art is truly the expression of the soul; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of Sculpture Space on June 17, 2016, and paying tribute to this year's honorees; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Helen Madden, President, Sculpture Space, Sylvia de Swaan and Jonathan Kirk.