



G R O U N D S F O R S C U L P T U R E

Grounds For Sculpture presents site-specific work exploring the nature of time in “Shantell Martin: Past, Present, Future”

Artist Shantell Martin takes her works off the page and into the gardens with her largest sculptures to date

Hamilton, NJ — April 27, 2026 — Explore the fleeting nature of time through murals, daily meditative practices and newly commissioned sculptures in “Shantell Martin: Past, Present, Future,” on view Sept. 20, 2026-July 23, 2028 at Grounds For Sculpture (GFS). The immersive, site-specific installation will feature new work indoors and sculptures in the park’s gardens.

The artist is known for her impactful and visually captivating work that often involves performance, philosophy, and linework. Self-exploration and continuous curiosity are key to her practice, and she invites viewers to join in a creative process that is as much about kindness as the act of creating.

“Shantell Martin’s works explore the meditative nature of artmaking with collaboration and playfulness,” shared Kathleen Ogilvie Greene, chief audience officer at Grounds For Sculpture and the exhibition’s curator. “This balance between curiosity, partnership and joy reignites the way GFS engages with many communities. The synergy is an exciting, authentic way to ground this exhibition within the GFS campus.”

By uniting artmaking with self-care and bringing art into the gardens, the exhibition underscores GFS’ pillars of art, nature and wellness. In the park’s West Gallery, there will be murals created onsite using a stream of consciousness process, along with the presentation of a new suite of work called the “Reply Card Project.” The “Reply Card Project” documents two years of Martin’s daily drawing practice; it centers the idea that a little bit of anything, consistently, can have a large impact. These meditative moments capture her visual marks alongside the sounds of mark-making — breaths, sighs, and utterances along with narration and environmental atmosphere. While in the gallery, visitors will hear the audio and see a selection of drawings from the “Reply Card Project,” bringing both visual and audio markers from the past into the exhibition space. Outdoors, Martin’s work will be brought off the page into the gardens with her largest sculptures yet through a collaboration with Johnson Atelier. Johnson Atelier, which joined GFS last year, is an onsite high-tech art fabricator and restorer, which often functions as an extension of the artist’s studio.

Martin has a history of working with textiles and will continue her collaborative practice by working with the Princeton Sankofa Stitchers Modern Quilt Guild (PSSMQG) to create four large quilts that will be made by local partners and the GFS community. Formed by like-minded Black women, PSSMQG honors the legacy of African American quilting by sharing its traditions with the broader public. Using distinct thematic prompts created by Martin, PSSMQG will lead community participants in the creation of quilt blocks through a range of construction techniques, each tethered to personal reflections inspired by the exhibition. The quilts will be created between September 2026 and February 2027 with a public celebration of the completed work to be held in April 2027.

Artist prompts will invite guests to engage with the key exhibition themes of time, discovery, and play.

In the gallery, visitors can pull from three towers of paper to make their own works inspired by prompts by Martin. The towers of paper will shrink and grow, reflecting the passage of time. Outdoors, words painted on select pathways invite visitors to reflect as they stroll through the sculpture park.

Martin will perform live at the exhibition's opening reception on Sept. 17, 2026 and will lead an evening on wellness in 2027.

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About Grounds For Sculpture

Grounds For Sculpture (GFS) is a 42-acre not-for-profit sculpture park, arboretum, and museum, founded by the late Seward Johnson. Featuring over 300 contemporary sculptures by renowned and emerging artists in a beckoning, ever-changing landscape, Grounds For Sculpture combines art and nature to surprise, inspire, and engage visitors from all backgrounds in the artist's act of invention. Grounds For Sculpture offers exhibitions in six indoor galleries alongside experiential art, horticulture, and wellness programs and its campus includes 25 artist studios and Johnson Atelier, which boasts state of the art sculpture fabrication and restoration capabilities. Located in Hamilton, New Jersey, Grounds For Sculpture is easily accessible from the New York City and Philadelphia metropolitan areas by public transit and is open year-round. For more information, visit [groundsfor Sculpture.org](https://www.groundsfor Sculpture.org).

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