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## **SERENDIPITY IN TOMPKINS SQUARE PARK** **Sculpture by Fanny Allié on view through November 2013**

Fanny Allié, a French artist based in New York, has created a site-specific public artwork for Tompkins Square Park in Manhattan's East Village. The sculpture, titled *Serendipity*, is a life-size, steel silhouette of a formerly homeless man who spent much of his time in the park. The exhibition, part of NYC Parks & Recreation's Art in the Parks program, will be located near the western entrance at St. Mark's Place and Avenue A and is on view through November 2013.

Allié visited Tompkins Square to prepare for the exhibition and find a regular park visitor to serve as the model for her piece. Instead the model found her. Christopher Gamble approached Allié and struck up a conversation. They later met for coffee where he revealed he was previously homeless for 28 years and frequented the park. Gamble agreed to model for the sculpture. Allié, who did not originally intend to focus on homelessness, embraced the spontaneous meeting, which highlights the spirit of the park as well as its history. Tompkins Square Park serves as a centerpiece for its eclectic neighborhood, which houses artists, radicals, fashion lovers, and long-time residents who have witnessed the nabe's changes over the past several decades.

The steel figure stands with its face looking up to the sky, shoulders and arms outreached, preparing to take flight. Allié interprets the piece as a symbol of hope and the desire to strive for something greater. In a series of recent works, she has focused on the human body, with a particular interest in its outline. By removing the center of the figure, she plays with ideas of memory and the mark we leave on places and others.

Fanny Allié (b. 1981) graduated from the Ecole Nationale Supérieure de la Photographie (The National School of Photography) in Arles, France, in 2005.

She was a selected artist for Artist in the Marketplace (AIM) at the Bronx Museum of the Arts in 2006-07. Allié has exhibited her work in New York at the Chashama Window Space, Eye Level BQE in Brooklyn, Bronx Blue Bedroom, Bronx Museum of the Arts, BRIC Rotunda Gallery, Freight and Volume, Envoy Gallery, NY Studio Gallery, and Bring to Light NYC (Nuit Blanche), among other international exhibitions. Her work "Silhouettes" is currently visible at 75 Market St in Newark as a part of Activate Market Street organized by Gallery Aferro and RBH Group in Newark, NJ, until September 2013. Allié lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

This exhibition was supported by the Foundation for Contemporary Arts.

Parks' public art program has consistently fostered the creation and installation of temporary public art in parks throughout the five boroughs. Since 1967, collaborations with arts organizations and artists have produced hundreds of public art projects in New York City parks.

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