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Queer Artist Nicole Eisenman Installs a Public Artwork in Boston's 401 Park

The installation, 'Grouping of Works From Fountain,' serves as a place of leisure and community in the city's Fenway neighborhood.

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Nicole Eisenman, *Grouping of Works from Fountain*, 2017-2019. 401 Park Collection, Samuels & Associates, Boston, Massachusetts. Courtesy of Goodman Taft. Photo: Aram Boghosian. Courtesy the artist / Anton Kern Gallery, New York © Nicole Eisenman

On June 2nd, 401 Park welcomed contemporary artist Nicole Eisenman's outdoor installation, *Grouping of Works From Fountain*, with a community event in Boston's Fenway neighborhood. The installation features a shallow

pool of water which hosts several bronze figures in repose, evoking memories of a time full of public community fountains and outdoor bathers. The sculpture is just another addition to the park, which was first built by Sears & Roebuck in 1929 and now rests in the hands of Samuels & Associates. The area also hosts Boston's Museum of Fine Arts, adding to Fenway's history as a historical and cultural hub.

“The thought-provoking sculptures Nicole Eisenman has created are a perfect fit—both for this site and for The Fenway,” says Steve Samuels, the founder and chairman of Samuels & Associates. “They will be the centerpiece of our new public park space, shifting Boston’s cultural center of gravity and connecting the historic prominence of 401 Park to the Emerald Necklace and the MFA. We hope that the spirit of these works inspires others in this neighborhood and beyond to support innovative artists who are rethinking the world and to bring their works to our city.”



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The installation sits beside the newest 1.1 acres of public green space in the area, which curators Abigail Goodman, Maria Taft, and Molly Epstein have overseen as part of curatorial advisory firm Goodman Taft. At the event, children played in the spouting waters of the fountain while their parents admired the playful reclining bronze figures. Eisenman hopes that the installation becomes a gathering point for Fenway residents as an object of recreation, not just admiration.

“I’m happy to know the fountain will be situated in a place where people are likely to hang out and enjoy some leisure time,” says Eisenman. “I look forward to seeing kids climbing on the sculptures and this piece integrating into the fabric of life in the Fens.”

Eisenman has shown her work in nearly every contemporary and modern art museum in New York, including the New Museum, the Jewish Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Whitney Museum of American Art. She currently lives and works in Brooklyn.