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**TIPPET RISE COMMISSIONS ARCHITECT FRANCIS KÉRÉ TO DESIGN THE NEWEST STRUCTURE ON THE 10,260-ACRE ART CENTER: A PERMANENT PAVILION SCHEDULED TO OPEN IN SUMMER 2019**

**Conceived as an Elevated Gathering Place Looking Toward the Beartooth Mountains, Kéré’s Wooden Pavilion Joins in Tippet Rise’s Fusion of Art and Nature**

**In Conjunction with the Commission, the Tippet Rise Fund Will Support Construction of a New School Building in Kéré’s Native Burkina Faso**



**Fishtail, MT, May 16, 2018**—Tippet Rise Art Center today announced it has commissioned world-renowned architect Francis Kéré to create a 1,900-square-foot pavilion for its 10,260-acre grounds in Montana, with this new structure scheduled to open at the start of the annual music season in summer 2019.

Conceived as a communal gathering space nestled among a cluster of aspen and cottonwood trees on the bank of a year-round stream, the pavilion is an evolution of Kéré’s celebrated 2015 canopy structure for the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art near Copenhagen and of his 2017 Serpentine Pavilion in London. Built of locally sourced logs of ponderosa pine and lodgepole pine, the pavilion will be a round structure that sits across the path of a circular aerial bridge that spans the stream. The bridge, which touches the ground at only a few points to preserve the natural landscape, features a number of seating areas positioned to highlight views of the water, meadows, and hills. The pavilion itself also features strategically placed seating areas beneath its canopy of vertical logs, which create a “rain of light” effect. Visitors may gather quietly within to converse or contemplate the views, or climb onto a platform sculpted on top of the canopy to observe the landscape through the leaves, and children may explore a



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carved “color cave” tunnel. The shape of the seating area—an irregular loop—has been inspired in part by a series of paintings that artist and Tippet Rise co-founder Cathy Halstead created based on the lyrical, abstract forms of microscopic life.

Laura Viklund Gunn of Gunnstock Timber Frames, responsible for the Olivier Music Barn and Will’s Shed at

Tippet Rise, will collaborate with Kéré and his team as the local project architect.

Francis Kéré said, “Standing on the high meadow of Tippet Rise Art Center, looking out at the mountains under a vast sky, people can face nature at its widest scale. But with this pavilion, Tippet Rise offers a more intimate experience of its landscape within a quiet shelter, where people can access the most secret part of nature: the heart of the trees. I am honored that Peter and Cathy Halstead have invited me to contribute to their magnificent Art Center, and I am deeply grateful for their generosity in linking the creation of this pavilion to the construction of a new school in my home of Burkina Faso.”

Co-founders Peter and Cathy Halstead said, “While sitting in Francis Kéré’s pavilion at Tippet Rise, visitors will be able to watch the sun move across the land through the trees and feel a mist from a summer rainfall overhead. We hope this gathering place will enable our visitors to explore the links that Kéré forges between art and science, to experience the deep-rooted similarities among the cultures of places as distant as Burkina Faso and Montana, and above all to feel drawn together in friendship.”

The design for the Tippet Rise pavilion is inspired by the traditional *togunas* of the Dogon culture of Mali: sacred shelters with wooden pillars, carved with ornaments representing the ancestors, and layers of wood and millet straw on the roof. In keeping with the educational mission of Tippet Rise, the Tippet Rise Fund of the Sidney E. Frank Foundation is also supporting the construction of a new Francis Kéré-designed school in Burkina Faso, Naaba Belem Goumma Secondary School, inspired by the architect’s dedication to building environmentally sustainable and climatically appropriate schools in West Africa. The school in Burkina Faso is set to be completed in 2019.

### **Art, Music and More at Tippet Rise**

The new pavilion by Francis Kéré joins the other large-scale works at Tippet Rise by acclaimed artists and architects. Many of these are site-specific commissions that dissolve the boundaries between art, nature, and architecture.

Artworks set within the landscape include several sculptural structures by the innovative **Ensamble Studio**, including the 25-foot-tall ***Beartooth Portal***, composed of two vertical rocklike forms, 29 feet tall, that lean together at the top; the similarly designed 26-foot-tall ***Inverted Portal***; and the 98-foot-long, 16-foot-tall ***Domo***, an acoustically rich structure where several of the summer music performances take



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place. Tippet Rise is also home to two monumental works by the internationally renowned sculptor **Mark di Suvero**: *Beethoven's Quartet* (2003, steel and stainless steel, 24 9/16 ft. x 30 ft. x 23 1/4 ft.) and *Proverb* (2002, painted Cor-ten steel, 60 ft x 17 11/16 ft. x 31 1/2 ft.); two site-specific works (*Satellite No. 5: Pioneer*, by **Stephen Talasnik**, and *Daydreams* by **Patrick Dougherty**); two additional works by Stephen Talasnik that frame the Olivier Music Barn's performance space, *Galaxy* (2014) and *Archeology* (2012); and two works by **Alexander Calder** on loan from the Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden: *Two Discs* (1965) and *Stainless Stealer* (1966). Two paintings by Isabelle Johnson, an original owner of part of the land on which Tippet Rise Art Center is situated, and Montana's first Modernist painter, have been acquired by Tippet Rise and hang in the Olivier Music Barn.

Other activities undertaken by Tippet Rise to serve its neighbors in Montana include the development and support of year-round education programs in schools at the K-12 level, local colleges and universities, and other organizations.

This season, Tippet Rise will reopen to the public on Friday, June 29, 2018, one week before the start of its third annual [summer music series](#), for [tours](#) of its monumental outdoor sculptures on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, with prior registration. Visitors can explore the ranch and its sculptures via nine miles of hiking and biking trails, or by shuttle vans.

#### **Getting to Tippet Rise Art Center**

Located in Stillwater County, Tippet Rise is approximately one hour southwest of Billings, two hours southeast of Bozeman, and two-and-a-half hours north of Yellowstone National Park. It is served by two major airports – Billings Logan International Airport and Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport.

#### **Press Contacts**

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Image credits: 1) Interior view of Pavilion designed by Francis Kéré at Tippet Rise Art Center in Montana.

Rendering courtesy of Kéré Architecture; 2) Exterior view of the Pavilion designed by Francis Kéré at Tippet Rise Art Center in Montana. Rendering courtesy of Kéré Architecture.