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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dianne Smith's *Organic Abstracts* at Bartow-Pell

*First Public Art Installation in Pelham Bay Park in Two Decades to be Featured in
Armory Arts Week Bronx Day on March 7; Exhibition Talk March 10*

From March 4 until March 24 visitors to the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum's gardens will be able to view the first public art installation in Pelham Bay Park in over twenty years.

Organic Abstracts is an exhibition by the West Harlem Art Fund in partnership with the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum and the City of New York Parks & Recreation department for Armory Week 2013. The featured artist is Dianne Smith, a native New Yorker who was born and raised in the Bronx.

Organic Abstracts consists of two large-scale, outdoor sculptures showcasing Smith's minimalist approach to large, abstract works. Both pieces are made from repurposed materials that are incorporated into the landscape.

In front of the mansion, ***The Couple***, two beautifully androgynous heads approximately twenty feet wide and ten feet tall will rest on one another atop a rectangular base. *The Couple*, made from everyday discarded materials, represents the idea of environmental, community, and family respect. Behind the mansion, ***Flying High***, a site-specific installation constructed out of brown butcher paper, will appear airborne as it arches between two stately yews in the formal garden.

Dianne Smith's abstract paintings, sculptures, and installations have been exhibited in solo and group exhibitions in New York City's Soho and Chelsea art districts as well as numerous galleries and institutions throughout the United States. She is an educator in the field of Aesthetic Education at Lincoln Center Institute (LCI) and at The Center for Arts Education (CAE), both in New York City. The Abyssinian Baptist Church, New York's oldest African American church, commissioned Smith to create the artwork commemorating their 2008 Bicentennial. Her work is also in the private collections of Maya Angelou, George Faison, Danny Simmons, Vivica A. Fox, Rev. and Mrs. Calvin O. Butts, III, Cicely Tyson, Arthur Mitchell and Terry McMillian.

Exhibition Talk on Sunday, March 10, 4 P.M.

Enjoy a walk and talk with artist Dianne Smith as she discusses her works at Bartow-Pell. Smith will ask attendees to question the impact and resonance of the recycled materials used in the creation of the sculptures. "What stories do they tell? What memories do they hold?"

Armory Arts Week Bronx Day on March 7

Thursday March 7th is Armory Arts Week Bronx Day – part of the renowned Armory Show in Manhattan. Dianne Smith's sculptural works will be on view and visitors will be able to tour the handsome Greek Revival Bartow-Pell mansion from 12 until 4. The Bronx Trolley will be available for transportation from Pier 94 in Manhattan to BPMM. Call 718-885-1461 or email info@bpmm.org for details and to reserve a seat.

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Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum is located at 895 Shore Road, Pelham Bay Park, Bronx, New York. To reach us by public transportation, take the #6 Lexington Avenue Local subway to Pelham Bay Park station, followed by the Westchester Bee-Line #45 bus direct to the mansion gate. For driving directions, please visit www.bpmm.org. The mansion and carriage house are open to the public for guided tours on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. The gardens and grounds are open daily from 8:30 a.m. to dusk. Mansion admission is \$5 adults, \$3 seniors and students; free for children under six. Visiting the garden and grounds is free.