



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **BRECKENRIDGE ADDS NEW SCULPTURE BY ALBERT PALEY TO TOWN'S PUBLIC ART COLLECTION**

**Installation set for early June with celebration June 18–21, 2018**

BRECKENRIDGE, CO (May 17, 2018) – The long-awaited moment is finally set to arrive. On June 20, Breckenridge cuts the ribbon on the latest addition to its public art collection—a 24-foot-tall, azure blue, fabricated steel sculpture by the renowned American artist Albert Paley. Called *Syncline*, the iconic work incorporates folds and curves that make up the geological feature from which it takes its name, and its color from the blue reflected by light projected deep into snow.

One of the foremost metalsmiths in contemporary art, Paley's works grace cultural arts centers from the Smithsonian Institution to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Breckenridge will be the first Colorado town to own one. The project is five years in the making, from planning to installation. It will occupy a prominent downtown space adjacent to the Riverwalk Center.

"Public art pieces like *Syncline* spark the imagination and curiosity of both our residents and guests, allowing more people to learn about art, appreciate it and be inspired by it," said Breckenridge Town Council member Elisabeth Lawrence. "This installation is yet another step in the Town's commitment to adding art into public spaces, and actively engaging in and supporting cultural development throughout our community."

*Syncline* is an abstract or "nonliteral" artwork, despite the symbolic dimensions that inspired Paley to design his site-specific piece to occupy a prominent public arena in Breckenridge. The fact that it is nonliteral "opens it up to each individual's interpretation," said the artist, noting the diversity of the Breckenridge community, from snow-sliding locals to guests from around the world. "In doing so it gives you the broadest possible interpretation."

“Breckenridge is becoming a market for thought-provoking contemporary art experiences juxtaposed against our rich historical backdrop and spectacular mountain vistas,” said Robb Woulfe, President and CEO of Breckenridge Creative Arts (BCA), the nonprofit charged with managing the Town’s public art collection. “The new Paley work adds to the cultural profile of Breckenridge and is a significant addition to our collection.”

In conjunction with the installation of the new sculpture, BCA will host a series of activities and events as part of **Paley Week** from **June 18-21**, including a ribbon-cutting ceremony and reception with the artist.

Paley Week, which celebrates Albert Paley's significant body of work and the completion and dedication of *Syncline*, includes a variety of free community events. As part of the activities, BCA is collaborating with the Museum of Contemporary Art Denver (MCA Denver) to offer its Art Fitness program in Breckenridge on June 19. The program invites audiences to study and develop their own interpretations of contemporary art using a few basic tools. Additional opportunities for dialog and artistic exploration include a “Build Your Own *Syncline*” family workshop on June 18, a public screening of *Albert Paley: In Search of the Sentinel* on June 21, and an exhibit entitled *Albert Paley: The Path to Syncline*, featuring drawings, maquettes, videos and other supporting works at Gallery@BRK in the Breckenridge Theater, on view from May 31 through September 9, 2018.

Paley believes his work will engage people on many different levels. “A community isn’t one thing; it’s a diverse spectrum of people,” he said. “The sculpture is creating a unique experience. People bring to it what they can bring to it.”

That said, he designed the sculpture specifically for Breckenridge—its irregular contours creating “a play of drama with light and shade” as the sun makes its way across the sky, evocative of the ephemeral nature of mountain light, and its scale a humbling reminder of the towering magnificence of Colorado’s Rocky Mountains.

Beyond that, there’s an emotional energy Paley tried to capture. “Whenever anybody talks about Breckenridge, by and large it’s the skiing and the activity involved around that,” the artist said. “The only thing that allows skiing to happen is its downhill slope—its syncline. When a skier goes down the slopes there’s a sense of energy, a sense of dynamism, a sense of lyricism. That aspect of excitement, engagement, physicality of sport—all of that is reflected in the sculpture.”

It’s similar to the way music can be nonliteral, he explained, but still articulate emotion. “If you are in an elated state, you might respond to a certain type of music,” he said. “Hopefully there’s a sense of identity—they have that feeling, and when they see the sculpture, it’s what they’re seeing. That’s what good public art can do—create a sense of place, a sense of identity, a personal experience.”

For more information on *Syncline*, the Breckenridge public art collection or Paley Week activities, visit [www.breckcreate.org](http://www.breckcreate.org).

## **Schedule of Events**

### Paley Week

Downtown Breckenridge | FREE

Mon, Jun 18–Thu, Jun 21, 2018

A series of events celebrating the work of renowned American sculptor Albert Paley and his installation of *Syncline*, the newest addition to the Breckenridge public art collection.

Build Your Own *Syncline*: Children’s Workshop

Mon, Jun 18 | 3–5pm

Gallery@BRK, Breckenridge Theater | FREE

Art Fitness with MCA Denver: Albert Paley

Tue, Jun 19 | 5:30–7pm

Gallery@BRK, Breckenridge Theater | FREE

Ribbon Cutting Celebration at *Syncline*

Wed, Jun 20 | 4:30–6pm

Riverwalk Center Lawn | FREE

Join Albert Paley, Town Council members, Public Art Advisory Committee members and the community in the celebration of Breckenridge’s newest public art work, *Syncline*. Featuring music by the National Repertory Orchestra and a reception to follow in the Riverwalk Center.

*In Search of the Sentinel*

Screening + Artist Talk with Albert Paley

Thu, Jun 21 | 5:30–7pm

Upper Level Studio, Old Masonic Hall | FREE

## **About the Artist**

Albert Paley is the first metal sculptor to receive the coveted Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Institute of Architects, the AIA’s highest award to a non-architect. He has been active as an artist for over 30 years at his studio in Rochester, New York.

Commissioned by both public institutions and private corporations, Paley has completed more than 60 site-specific works. Pieces by Albert Paley can be found in the permanent collections of many major museums including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, Western Australia, Fitzwilliam, and British Museum.

Broadly published and an international lecturer, Paley received both his BFA and MFA from the Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia. He received honorary doctorates from the University of Rochester in 1989, the State University of New York at Brockport in 1996, and St. Lawrence University, in Canton, New York in 1997. He also holds an endowed chair at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Currently, he is Distinguished Professor holding Professor holding the Charlotte Fredericks Mowris Professorship in Contemporary Crafts, School for American Crafts, College of Imaging Arts and Sciences, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York.

### **About the Breckenridge Public Art Collection**

The Breckenridge public art collection engages passersby from all walks of life, inciting conversation around topics that are quintessentially Breckenridge, from the picturesque mountain environment to rich local history. Pieces in the permanent collection occupy carefully-selected public spaces throughout town, and are thoughtfully curated to enhance the collective aesthetic experience of locals and visitors alike. In addition to the permanent collection, temporary and ephemeral installations bolster the experience of Breckenridge as a haven for creativity high in the Colorado Rocky Mountains. For more information, visit [www.breckcreate.org/public-art](http://www.breckcreate.org/public-art).

### **About Breckenridge Creative Arts**

As an umbrella organization that promotes arts, culture and creative experiences, Breckenridge Creative Arts (BCA)—or BreckCreate for short—is responsible for the successful management of a series of programs, properties and partnerships which collectively animate and populate a cultural corridor in the heart of downtown Breckenridge. From quality performing and visual arts to the development of the Breckenridge Arts District, a Colorado-Certified Creative District, BCA is a transformative force for Breckenridge and the greater Summit County community.

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