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Media Contact: Robb Woulfe

(970) 453-3187 ext. 1

robbw@townofbreckenridge.com

RENOWNED SCULPTOR ALBERT PALEY TO VISIT BRECKENRIDGE

Appearance supports commissioned piece “Syncline” and the Breckenridge Arts District Preview

BRECKENRIDGE, CO (September 19, 2014) – Breckenridge Creative Arts announces a free lecture and presentation by celebrated American sculptor **Albert Paley** on **Friday, September 26 from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm** at the **Breckenridge Theater**, located at 121 S. Ridge Street in downtown Breckenridge. Paley, one of the foremost metalsmiths in contemporary art, will share his vision for “Syncline,” a new commission for the Breckenridge Public Art Collection. In addition to discussing the commission, Paley will also reflect upon the art of placemaking and how his work has impacted communities throughout the world.

This special lecture is presented in conjunction with a weekend of activities that celebrate the opening of the new Breckenridge Arts District campus from September 25 through 28, 2014. The 4-day event includes studio tours, workshops, demonstrations, exhibitions, installations, musical performances, culinary samplings from area restaurants, and refreshments from the local craft beverage community.

“We are very excited to welcome Albert Paley to Breckenridge,” said Jennifer Cram, Manager of the Breckenridge Arts District and Public Art Program. “His large-scale abstract work continues to be at the forefront of contemporary sculpture, and we are honored that Breckenridge will be the first community in Colorado to feature one of his permanent installations.”

Paley, an active artist for over 40 years at his studio in Rochester, New York, is the first metal sculptor to receive the coveted Institute Honors awarded by the American Institute of Architects, the AIA’s highest award to a non-architect. “The allure of Paley’s art comes through its intrinsic sense of integration of art and architecture,” as one noted architect stated. Paley, Distinguished Professor, holds an Endowed Chair at the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences at Rochester Institute of Technology.

Commissioned by both public institutions and private corporations, Paley has completed more than 50 site-specific works. Some notable examples are the Portal Gates for the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC, Synergy, a ceremonial archway in Philadelphia, the Portal Gates for the New York State Senate Chambers in Albany, Sentinel, a monumental plaza sculpture for Rochester Institute of Technology,

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as well as a 65-foot sculpture for the entry court of Bausch and Lomb's headquarters in Rochester, NY. Recently completed works include three sculptures for the National Harbor development near Washington DC, a 130' long archway named Animals Always for the St. Louis Zoo, a gate for the Cleveland Botanical Gardens in Cleveland, OH, a sculptural relief for Wellington Place, Toronto, Canada, Threshold, a sculpture for the Corporate Headquarters of Klein Steel, Rochester, NY, and Transformation, a ceremonial entranceway for Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa.

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.

Earlier this year, the Town of Breckenridge made the decision to commission Paley's sculpture after considering it as a piece of public art for the new roundabout at the north entrance to town. Given the scale and detail of the Paley's work, officials felt the roundabout was not an ideal site for the piece, and that it would be better experienced and appreciated if located in a more centralized area of town. The Breckenridge Public Art Commission recommended the piece be placed within the town's burgeoning Arts District, concluding that, ultimately, the roundabout was a challenging location for any sculptural installations or public art projects. With Paley's "Syncline" now planned to be installed downtown near the Riverwalk Center and Blue River Plaza, the Town of Breckenridge is focusing its efforts around landscape design within the new roundabout.

Established in 2014, Breckenridge Creative Arts (BreckCreate) was developed by the town to support and promote arts, culture, and creative experiences throughout Breckenridge. This division of town government, which will branch off to become its own multidisciplinary nonprofit organization in 2015, is responsible for the successful management of a series of programs, facilities, and partnerships that collectively animate and populate a cultural corridor in the heart of downtown Breckenridge. From quality performing and visual arts to the development of one of the region's newest arts districts, Breckenridge Creative Arts is a transformative force for Breckenridge and the greater Summit County community. For more information, please visit breckcreate.org.

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