# **CLAUDY <sup>®</sup> JONGSTRA**

PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

Dutch artist Claudy Jongstra installs major art piece 'Fields of Transformation' in the Moelis Family Grand Reading Room at Penn Libraries.

On May 3rd, 2017, renowned Dutch artist **Claudy Jongstra** will be completing the installation of her largest mural so far 'Fields of Transformation' in the new **Moelis Family Grand Reading Room** in Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Jongstra was invited to create this large piece by global design firm **Gensler** in 2016 after unveiling several impressive murals in the Light Court and the restaurant of the Barnes Foundation. The Moelis Family Grand Reading Room is the Penn Libraries' response to a desire for quieter space for reflective study in Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center following recent renovations more directed toward collaboration and communication among students. Gensler and Claudy Jongstra recognized the opportunity to create not only an aesthetically remarkable piece, but also a work that doubles as a high-performance acoustical material, allowing the space to function as a grand yet quiet, focus oriented environment.

Fields of Transformation comprises three huge pieces, varying in dimension, the largest being nearly 6 meters high by 15 meters wide, made of felted wool and pure silk. This soft, generous gesture opens and subtly defines the space where knowledge transforms into insight and eternal wisdom by visualizing the change as it moves from the head to the heart. The source of knowledge is blue, from the indigo plant on the wool from the ancient Drenthe Heath Sheep, combining eastern and western hemispheres of knowledge of the past that is stewarded by the library. One of the oldest fibers known to man, the shiny, pure white threads from the Chinese silkworm show the intellectual stage of active knowledge, derived in the mind from research with the help of new connections and profound understanding; completely reflective, white awakens openness and growth. Chamomile, an age-old dyer's plant, renders its glow to the warm yellow heart, where the dynamic transformation of information into golden wisdom takes place, through engagement, curiosity, and irrational creativity, to shape the future.

Claudy Jongstra: 'Lots of people will be mindfully reading and studying in this library, thus opening up and coming into contact with unknown worlds, that's also what this art piece is about.'

Fields of Transformation is the largest art piece by Claudy Jongstra so far, adding to her extensive body of works in the United States (Lincoln Center, Bennington College, Rhode Island School of Design, Kapor Center for Social Impact SF, Cooper Hewitt, SF MoMA, Barnes Foundation, MoMA New York and in several private collections). In 2017 another American commission will be installed in the American Embassy in the Netherlands.

### **About Claudy Jongstra**

Dutch artist Claudy Jongstra (1963) creates art pieces and architectural installations of hand-felted natural fibers, bringing a sense of beauty and belonging to open spaces. Over the past 25 years, Jongstra has been building an impressive oeuvre of her unique and very coveted tactile art pieces. Situated in the rural north of the Netherlands, Jongstra raises her own sheep, keeps bees, and cultivates a biodynamic dye garden.

Jongstra's practice poetically marries social impact and eco-awareness, respecting nature and leaving no waste behind, with history, culture, and tradition through the exploration of ancient crafts, embodying hope for the future of sustainability.

www.claudyjongstra.com

#### **About Gensler**

Gensler is a global architecture, design and planning firm with 45 locations and more than 5,000 professionals networked across Asia, Europe, Australia, the Middle East and the Americas. Founded in 1965, the firm serves more than 3,500 active clients in virtually every industry. Gensler designers strive to make the places people live, work and play more inspiring, more resilient and more impactful.

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