



## Francis Kéré's New Pavilion, *Xylem*, to Open at Tippet Rise Art Center This July

**In Conjunction with the Commission, the Tippet Rise Fund Is Supporting Construction of a New School Building in Kéré's Native Burkina Faso, Due to Open in January 2020**



**Fishtail, MT, April 10, 2019**—Tippet Rise Art Center announced today that *Xylem*, the 2,100-square-foot pavilion designed by architect Francis Kéré, will open on Saturday, July 13, 2019, to coincide with the opening weekend of the art center's fourth season of classical music concerts. The pavilion, which is currently under construction, is close to the art center's central campus, amid aspen and cottonwood trees near the bank of Grove Creek. Visitors will be encouraged to gather to converse or contemplate the views, or to sit and meditate in solitude. From time to time, programming will be hosted at *Xylem*, including poetry readings and musical performances.

Francis Kéré said, "It has been a great pleasure for me to work with Peter and Cathy Halstead and contribute a new element to Tippet Rise Art Center. This pavilion creates a quiet space within the vast, magnificent landscape, where people can pause, relax, look out at the spectacular views, and listen to the sounds of the creek, the birds, and the rustling leaves. I feel deep satisfaction at having been able to realize the pavilion at Tippet Rise, and I look forward to seeing people enjoy it."

Tippet Rise co-founders Peter and Cathy Halstead said, "At Tippet Rise, we want the buildings to have the material and formal integrity of sculptures and the sculptures to have the scale and presence of architecture, with both kinds of structures rooted deeply in the experience of land and sky. That's why, from the first time we encountered Francis Kéré's enthralling work, we knew his architecture would be perfect for Tippet Rise. We are eager to welcome our visitors to Tippet Rise again this summer, when they will be able to explore the landscape beyond the Olivier Music Barn, and gather in the light-dappled, contemplative space that Francis has created."

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. The design is inspired by

the traditional *togunas* of the Dogon culture of Mali: sacred shelters with wooden pillars, carved with ornaments representing the ancestors. The toguna's layered roof of wood and millet straw allows for protection from the sun, as well as ventilation within the space beneath.

Tippet Rise's pavilion is being constructed of locally and sustainably sourced ponderosa and lodgepole pine and features a canopy of vertical logs, which filters shafts of light in an ever-changing pattern onto the seating areas. The organic shapes of the seating elements are inspired in part by abstract paintings that artist and Tippet Rise co-founder Cathy Halstead created based on the forms of microscopic life, in addition to the sinuous topography of the surrounding hills.

Laura Viklund of Gunnstock Timber Frames, who also built the Olivier Music Barn and Will's Shed at Tippet Rise, is collaborating with Kéré and his team as the local project architect.

### **Tippet Rise Fund Supports Naaba Belem Goumma Secondary School**

In keeping with the educational mission of Tippet Rise, the Tippet Rise Fund of the Sidney E. Frank Foundation is also supporting Francis Kéré in his work to build environmentally sustainable and climatically appropriate schools in West Africa, funding the construction of a new school he has designed in his birthplace, the village of Gando in Burkina Faso. Opening in January 2020, the Naaba Belem Goumma Secondary School is designed to accommodate approximately 1,000 students from the grassy savanna region that surrounds the village and features classrooms, offices, a resource center, an assembly hall, a sports field, and sheltered parking for bicycles and motorbikes. More details about the school, which is named for Kéré's father, are available [here](#).

### **Art at Tippet Rise**

The new pavilion by Francis Kéré joins 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.

Site-specific 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 Saturday morning music performances take place. Tippet Rise is also home to ***Daydreams*** by **Patrick Dougherty** and ***Satellite No. 5: Pioneer*** by **Stephen Talasnik**. Two additional works by Stephen Talasnik frame the Olivier Music Barn's performance space—***Galaxy*** (2014) and ***Archeology*** (2012).

Also set in the landscape are 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.) 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 the art center is situated, and Montana's first Modernist painter, have been acquired by Tippet Rise and hang in the Olivier Music Barn.

### **About Tippet Rise Art Center**

Tippet Rise is located in Fishtail, Montana against the backdrop of the Beartooth Mountains, roughly midway between Billings and Bozeman and just north of Yellowstone National Park. Set on a 12,060 acre-working sheep and cattle ranch, Tippet Rise hosts classical music performances and exhibits large-

scale outdoor sculptures. Tippet Rise is anchored in the belief that art, music, architecture, and nature are inextricably linked in the human experience, each making the others more powerful.

As an institution founded to serve its neighbors in Montana as much as visiting musicians, artists, and audiences, Tippet Rise develops and supports education programs in schools at the K-12 level, local colleges and universities, and other organizations.

### **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.

### **Access and Tickets**

Tippet Rise is open to visitors from early July to mid-September on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, with prior registration. Concerts and van tours are priced at \$10; free to those 21 and under. Hiking and biking, with prior registration, are free. For the latest information on ticketing, please sign up for the Tippet Rise [e-newsletter](#).

For more information about Tippet Rise, please visit [www.tippetrise.org](http://www.tippetrise.org)

### **Press Contacts**

Polskin Arts & Communications Counselors

Alison Buchbinder / Pascal Nadon

[alison.buchbinder@finnpartners.com](mailto:alison.buchbinder@finnpartners.com) / [pascal.nadon@finnpartners.com](mailto:pascal.nadon@finnpartners.com)

646-688-7826 / 646-234-7088

Image credit: Exterior view of *Xylem*, a pavilion designed by Francis Kéré at Tippet Rise Art Center in Montana. Rendering courtesy of Kéré Architecture.