

Public Art Fund to Install Spencer Finch’s Miniature Redwood Forest in Brooklyn



The Public Art Fund has announced that it will install a miniature redwood forest created by artist Spencer Finch at MetroTech Commons in Brooklyn. Finch will re-create a 790-acre section of Redwood National Park, in California, at a 1:100 scale. Trees that range from 98 to 380 feet tall will be between 1 and 4 feet tall in the installation, which will live in a 4,500-square-foot section of the commons’ lawn.

Public Art Fund director and chief curator Nicholas Baume said that the work reflects the Brooklyn-based artist’s “fascination with activating the imagination through observation of natural phenomena.” He added, “For many years he has explored the ineffable qualities of our ever-changing natural world through wide-ranging mediums, but this is his first use of living trees.”

To realize the project, Finch collaborated with the Save the Redwoods League, which provided details such as topographical and canopy-height maps of the national forest and helped to design a special planting and irrigation system so the plants can flourish in their urban environment.

“Through both a scientific approach to gathering data—including precise measurements and record keeping—and a poetic sensibility, Finch’s works often inhabit the area between objective investigations of science and the subjectivity of lived experience,” said associate curator Emma Enderby, who organized the exhibition. “Spencer Finch: Lost Man Creek” will be on view from October 1, 2016, to May 13, 2018.