
BLOUIN ARTINFO

IN THE AIR

Art News & Gossip

NOVEMBER 19, 2013, 8:41 AM

Olaf Breuning Bringing a Cartoon Cloudscape to Central Park



For the **Public Art Fund**'s next commission for its site at the southwest entrance to Central Park — which is currently occupied by **Iran do Espírito Santo**'s perforated cube cast cement — will be a cluster of childlike clouds by Swiss artist **Olaf Breuning**. Appropriately titled “Clouds,” the group of brushed aluminum clouds, rendered in the style of children’s drawings, will rise as high as 35 feet over Doris C. Freedman Plaza at the corner of 60th Street and Fifth Avenue.

Each of the six aluminum clouds will be mounted atop a steel

structure whose apparent crudeness evokes suburban tree fort architecture. The nostalgic cloudscape will be installed on March, 4, 2013, and remain on view through August 24.

“One of the largest works we’ve ever commissioned for the entrance to Central Park, Olaf Bruening’s *Clouds* is also among the most playful.” said Public Art Fund director and chief curator **Nicholas Baume** in a statement. “His cartoon-like tableau stands on the threshold between culture and nature, welcoming us from the city into the park, and from everyday routine into the world of imagination.”

Breuning’s series of monkey-like sculptures “*The Humans*” are currently featured in the Public Art Fund’s City Hall Park exhibition “Lightness of Being,” but “*Clouds*” will mark his largest solo public art project in the U.S. to date. Earlier this year he unveiled an enormous public installation just over the border in Toronto titled “The Guardians.”

“Breuning’s enormous clouds recall the set of a grade school play, transforming the familiar plaza into a surreal new space,” added Andria Hickey, the Public Art Fund’s associate curator, who is curating Breuning’s show. “This work brings his long engagement with staged photography to the realm of sculpture, dramatically changing the skyline at the entrance to the park and literally bringing blue skies to this plaza every day.”

— *Benjamin Sutton (@bhsutton)*