

## PRESS RELEASE

MICHEL VARISCO

“TURNING (prayer wheels for the Mississippi River)”

Unveiling Dedication Ceremony

Sat Nov 18, 2:30– 4:30p

*On Site: The Lafitte Greenway entrance at Bayou St John & Jefferson Davis Parkway*



“Turning: prayer wheels for the Mississippi River” Artist Rendering

Please join us for the unveiling dedication of artist Michel Varisco's public art installation, “Turning (prayer wheels for the Mississippi River)”, Saturday November 18<sup>h</sup>, 2:30p. Commissioned by the Arts Council of New Orleans, the City of New Orleans, and featured in the Prospect.4 Biennial, “Turning” elegantly blends social and environmental activism with interactive sculpture, where the history of the land itself is an integral component of the piece.

“Turning” consists of three, 9 foot, stainless steel, interactive “prayer wheels”, individually cut with iconography of the Mississippi River from three distinct periods of the river’s history, (the wild era, colonial plantation era, and petrochemical era), based on the mapping in Kate Orff’s seminal book, “Petrochemical America”. Each cylinder is rooted in a hand-made mosaic base that depicts the land building patterns created from deposits of the river’s sediment over 7000 years, informed by the Fisk maps of 1944. At night, the prayer wheels will emit pulses of dim blue light via solar power, and visitors may spin each wheel to intensify the emanations. The path that weaves through the installation echoes the river’s serpentine curvature, while the indigenous gardens surrounding the site were planted by Varisco and a team of devoted community volunteers.



“Turning” Prayer Wheel at Night; Luna Fete 2016



CITY OF NEW ORLEANS



*“Turning” was previously exhibited at Luna Feté 2016;*

*“Turning: prayer wheels for the Mississippi River” is generously supported by the Arts Council of New Orleans, the City of New Orleans, Prospect.4 Biennial and Longue Vue House & Gardens*