

## ***New Horizon* FAQs**

### **What is the concept behind *New Horizon*?**

Borrowing from one of the great American mythologies—the road trip—Doug Aitken is creating a 21<sup>st</sup>-century version of a summer journey, with a reflective balloon sculpture that moves across the state. *New Horizon* will be complemented by a curated series of conversations designed to provide insight into the future of our culture, ranging from discussions on the changing climate to the evolution of digital identity with leading figures and organizations such as David Edwards from World Frontiers Forum, and Spencer Glendon, PhD and Chris Neill from the Woods Hole Research Center.

Aitken's work often incorporates live music and performance, creating both temporal and recorded experiences. For *New Horizon*, he has also invited a dynamic line-up of emerging and celebrated musicians and songwriters including Jónsi, Kelsey Lu, Destroyer, and Mac DeMarco to perform as the balloon is transformed into a large-scale light sculpture that moves and flows with the music and the environment.

### **How will *New Horizon* be presented?**

*New Horizon* will traverse the Massachusetts landscape creating dynamic “happenings” for conversation, music, and assembly at select Trustees natural, coastal, and cultural properties, as well as making surprise appearances, from July 12-28, 2019. Conceived and curated by the artist, *New Horizon* will feature a series of ticketed live events and experiences (prices range from Free to \$250) taking place across the state, all centered around a mirror-surfaced hot air balloon and gondola that contrasts with the natural settings of New England. *New Horizon* will range from special sunrise experiences and tethered flight opportunities, to evening performances and conversations, family events, and special fundraisers.

### **Will the balloon float from site to site?**

“New Horizon is an unpredictable project,” says the artist. “I love the idea that a farmer in the field could look up and see this mirrored sculpture float by or that someone hiking in the forest wanders into a clearing and discovers a live musical performance or conversation. I want to create a project where every moment is singular and unexpected. The locations are all natural landscapes owned by The Trustees, an amazing environmental organization.”

While at each property, the balloon will be tethered. We have done extensive wind analysis to determine where the flights will be most successful.

### **How does the balloon function in conjunction with the conversations and performances?**

The balloon itself will have many functions—at times during the day it will be tethered above a stage and reflect the landscape, and at night it will turn into a generative light sculpture radiating patterns and color of light in sync with live music or the changing landscape. While in motion or flying, the gondola of the balloon will be a nomadic studio.

### **Which sites will the balloon visit?**

*New Horizon* is a modern road trip that will premiere on Martha's Vineyard the weekend of July 12-14 at The Trustees' [Long Point Reservation in West Tisbury](#) and [The Farm Institute in Edgartown](#) and then move off island on Wednesday, July 17 to [Holmes Reservation in Plymouth](#). On Saturday, July 20, it will visit [deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum in Lincoln](#) and then move on to [Castle Hill on the Crane Estate in Ipswich](#) on Sunday, July 21. *New Horizon*

will travel across the state to [Field Farm in Williamstown](#) on Thursday, July 25, and will stay in the Berkshires for the weekend with a stop at [Naumkeag](#) on Saturday, July 27, and returning to Field Farm in Williamstown for its final stop during the morning of Sunday, July 28.

*Please note:* The schedule is weather dependent, and subject to change.

**What is a Sunrise Experience? Can people board the hot air balloon?**

Each Sunrise Experience is a special opportunity for people to interact directly with the balloon. These will be special, ticketed viewings and tethered flight opportunities.

**Can the general public come and watch without purchasing a ticket?**

All attendees will be required to purchase a ticket in advance of arrival to the event location. Capacities are limited at all properties and onsite sales are not guaranteed. The best way to ensure attendance to any event is to purchase tickets in advance.

**How can the general public get updates?**

More details on places, times, viewings, and happenings will be announced on the *New Horizon* website at [thetrustees.org/newhorizon](http://thetrustees.org/newhorizon) as well as via Instagram and Facebook Stories and Twitter—follow #dougaitkennewhorizon #dougaitken #thetrustees #artxlandscape.

**TICKETING**

**If I purchase tickets for a Happening or flight and it's canceled, will there be a refund? How will I find out?**

Tickets are non-refundable and non-transferable unless we cancel due to weather. If we cancel due to weather, you will be refunded minus service fees on Eventbrite, and notified via email. Updates will be made on our website. *Please note: musical acts are subject to change.*

**Will tickets be available on the day of the event?**

Yes, unless event is sold out and/or capacity has been reached. Purchasing tickets in advance is strongly encouraged.

**Will there be separate parking fees?**

Parking is included with the event fee, but a free parking pass (one per car) must be obtained during the ticketing process. Check each event page for specific parking information. A final logistics email will be sent to the ticket purchaser's email account one week prior to the event date.

**Are there any special prices for kids?**

Children under the age of six (6) are free.

**If I become a member on the day of the event, am I able to get the discount?**

Yes.

**What is your weather cancellation policy?**

All events are rain or shine and will only be canceled in cases of extreme weather.

**BALLOON INFORMATION**

**Will waivers be required to go up in the balloon?**

Yes, waivers are required and will be provided onsite, and will require the passenger's signature.

**What ages can go up in the balloon?**

Any age is welcome, but it is required that each person is able to climb into the gondola without assistance. Flights are not recommended for anyone under the age of ten (10) or those with mobility challenges.

**Who has constructed the balloon and has it been safety tested? How safe is it?**

The balloon is constructed by a professional balloon manufacturer based in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The manufacturer has 35 years of experience following all FAA standards and regulations. The balloon has been tested to meet FAA regulations and has passed a rigorous FAA inspection. All sites have been evaluated by the pilot and have been confirmed as safe locations.

**What types of weather will impede the balloon from flying?**

Like with any hot air balloon, flights will be weather dependent. In cases of extreme weather, such as high winds or lightning, the balloon will not fly.

**Will *New Horizon* have a negative impact on wildlife and the environment?**

As a conservation and preservation nonprofit, our goal is to balance the protection of our natural resources with public access. We have evaluated all of the locations with the artist and curator, together with our site and ecology staff, to ensure the location of the balloon and happenings do not compromise the ecological or cultural integrity of our landscapes.

**ART & THE LANDSCAPE PROGRAM****What is The Trustees' mission?**

The Trustees has, for more than 125 years, been a catalyst for important ideas, creative endeavors, and imaginative progress in Massachusetts. Founded by esteemed landscape architect Charles Eliot to preserve some of Massachusetts' most important and iconic landscapes and landmarks for public use and enjoyment, today we steward 117 distinctive and visually dynamic places rich in cultural, historical, and natural context that serve as dynamic platforms for gatherings of people of all ages and diverse interests. Our sites are destinations that welcome more than two million Massachusetts residents and visitors annually and, through innovative programs and initiatives, are sparking record engagement.

**What is the Art & the Landscape program and the vision behind it?**

As a statewide nonprofit conservation organization working to engage diverse audiences in its mission to preserve historic and natural sites and inspire more people to use and appreciate them, The Trustees sees the power of contemporary artists to inspire and attract new audiences. It is the Trustees' legacy to be innovative, bold, and provocative. Art & the Landscape pushes the organization and its visitors beyond the boundaries of its properties and the more traditional recreational or cultural visit, and creates exciting new experiences.

The Trustees launched [Art & the Landscape](#) as a multi-year initiative to inspire new and expanded audiences through powerful, contemporary art experiences at some of the organization's most scenic and highly visited gardens, historic houses, beaches, and public

parks. The program invites artists to create new works for Trustees landscapes which are provocative and visually compelling, allowing visitors to experience these sites in new ways. Since it began, Art & the Landscape has welcomed thousands of new and recurring Members and visitors to experience Trustees properties with a contemporary perspective while gaining a deeper appreciation for their history and the organization's nonprofit preservation mission.

With thoughtful planning and the strong curatorial leadership of independent curator Pedro Alonzo, Art & the Landscape invites renowned artists to expand their practice within the non-traditional environment of Trustees' outdoor properties, connecting them with new audiences. The program ties together threads of art, nature, community, and history and provides artists with a unique opportunity to develop temporary, site-specific projects lasting anywhere from a few weeks to a year or more in duration.

Since the summer of 2016, The Trustees has presented three commissioned works designed by renowned artists, including *The Meeting House* by Sam Durant at The Old Manse in Concord, *A New End* at World's End by Jeppe Hein, and *TunnelTeller* by Alicja Kwade at Castle Hill on the Crane Estate. Doug Aitken's *New Horizon* is the fourth installation in the series.

### **How did Doug Aitken choose the Trustees sites for this project?**

For all Art & the Landscape program installations, curator Pedro Alonzo takes the artists to Trustees sites and works with them to select the property(ies) to be home for the installation. It is an important consideration that sites are accessible to large groups.

Doug Aitken lives in CA and is an avid surfer and beach lover. When he came to visit Trustees properties, he fell in love with the coastal sites as well as some of the organization's other natural and cultural sites which he felt were unique and iconic. While on tour, he came up with the road trip concept. As an artist he is interested in reaching beyond traditional formats and in putting art in non-traditional places (for example, one of his most recent works, *Mirage*—a mirrored house that reflects the sky landscape around it—appeared in the Alps in Gstaad, Switzerland, as well as in the California desert). Doug's vision for *New Horizon* is that the balloon will create new perspectives and reflections for each site it visits on the journey. The work will not be static but changing, like our world. Aitken sees sites as a medium and wants to make it easy for people to engage with art, technology, and nature.

### **Is *New Horizon* the last in the Art & the Landscape series or will there be future installations?**

The program will continue, but this may be considered our most ambitious project.

### **What will happen to the balloon after the *New Horizon* series is over?**

The balloon will continue to be owned by the artist. The Trustees does not know what the artist's future plans are for it at this time, but like with many of his installations, they often appear at other sites.