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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Peconic Landing's Newest Sculpture *Embrace* Unveiled**

GREENPORT, N.Y. – Peconic Landing, the East End's only Continuing Care Retirement Community, unveiled the highly anticipated sculpture entitled *Embrace* in a private ceremony on August 2, 2021. Public viewings are available starting August 3.

Designed by a committee of local artists and experts, the visually striking *Embrace* is the newest addition to Peconic Landing's award-winning outdoor sculpture garden *Art Without Barriers*. The exhibit is geared towards making art accessible to all, with a particular focus on the visually impaired. With descriptive audio that adheres to standards set by the American Foundation for the Blind, *Art Without Barriers* enables people of various abilities to experience art in creative ways.

"We are thrilled to share this new sculpture with art lovers across the East End and beyond," said Robert J. Syron, President and CEO of Peconic Landing. "Part of our mission has always been to serve our local community, and our accessible sculpture garden is one of many ways we are pleased to do so. The spirit of collaboration behind this piece truly reflects the North Fork and who we are as a community, and it has been a pure joy to see this project grow from a vision into reality."

The original idea for *Embrace* was conceived in late 2019 by Dominic Antignano, artist and Cultural Arts Curator at Peconic Landing, and Jonathan Tibett, co-founder of ABC Stone and founder of Precision Stone and The North American Sculpture Center. Tibett, a resident of Southold, was an admirer of the sculpture garden and asked Antignano if he could donate a piece.

Both interested in seeing a collaborative effort take shape, Antignano and Tibett looked to form a diverse committee of artists and experts to conceptualize and design the piece. The group included Claudia Ward, artist and member of the Peconic Landing Board of Trustees, Patricia Lutzky, Vice President of Peconic Landing, Nancy Rollins and Charlotte Lipfert, both artists and members of Peconic Landing, and Lisa Baglivi, local artist and educator.

"Fundamental aspects of any work of art are the physicality of the piece and the connection with your muse. How was it made? How did the artist create that particular sculpture?" asks Antignano. "In our case, how did a diverse collaborative turn their

thoughts and ideas into a sculpture that is emblematic of Peconic Landing? It's the very nature of creativity, the process of making vision a reality that brought *Embrace* to life. It was created by the community – for the community."

The committee spent weeks working together with the goal of identifying the perfect artistic vision to represent a theme of connection. The idea of a wave was born, made out of textured marble that would symbolize the building blocks of the North Fork community.

"It has been a pleasure to be involved in this collaborative effort with creative and passionate people who are so engaged with their community," said Tibett. "The name *Embrace* captures the meaning of this beautiful piece and the place where it resides. The sculpture itself is a beautiful synthesis of ideas that embodies all of the energy of those that created it. A strong foundation created from building blocks that collectively intertwine which makes a work of art."

The name *Embrace* was also chosen by the local committee, of course. After a long artistic process of strategic word mapping, the title *Embrace* was chosen to perfectly encapsulate the convivial theme of the piece. The design itself was perfected on paper by artist Baglivi and later digitized over the course of several hundred hours by Tibett's team.

"It is such a great honor to be a part of this collaboration and to see it brought to life," said Baglivi. "I was inspired to join together the stabilizing weight of stone, a past relic of the maritime history of Greenport, with the gentle but powerful wave of an embrace."

The material used for the sculpture also has a history of collaboration and community. Known as Vermont Danby marble, the stone originated from the largest underground quarry in the world – the same quarry, in fact, that Tibett's team sourced from to construct *The Ark of Return*, a memorial for the United Nations designed by Haitian-American architect Rodney Leon. The piece was the winning design in an international competition ran by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, a group who "seeks to build peace through international cooperation," according to their website.

"The beauty of stone, sculpted, set in the grandeur and embrace of nature, brings peace to the soul," said Peconic Landing board member Ward.

*Embrace*, measuring 10 and a half feet long by five and a half feet high, weighs in at approximately 3,000 pounds. Due to its size, it is held in place with a four feet deep concrete foundation and reinforced with rebar.

"During the last decades of our life when we can feel vulnerable and isolated, the stone firmly anchored into the earth speaks to us of strength," said Peconic Landing member

Lipfert. “The engraved spiral pulls us in, urging us to stay connected with life and each other.”

Peconic Landing’s *Art Without Barriers* sculpture garden is open to the public from June through September, sunrise to sunset. To schedule a private tour, contact Dominic Antignano at [dantignano@peconiclanding.org](mailto:dantignano@peconiclanding.org).

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*Peconic Landing is a nationally recognized, equity-based Continuing Care Retirement Community overlooking the breathtaking Long Island Sound. Located on the North Fork of a half-mile of private Sound Beach, the organization works on a mission of being the retirement community of choice for individuals age 62 and better by encouraging our members to enjoy a vibrant lifestyle and presenting ample opportunity for members to pursue their interests and passions to the fullest. For more information on Peconic Landing, please visit [www.peconiclanding.org](http://www.peconiclanding.org).*



*From left to right: Jonathan Tibett, Dominic Antignano, Robert J. Syron*



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