

Diana Al-Hadid: *Delirious Matter* was commissioned by the Madison Square Park Conservancy, New York, and was first exhibited by Mad. Sq. Art, the contemporary art program of the Madison Square Park Conservancy. The installation at Williams College is made possible by a generous contribution from Seton Melvin '82 and the Williams College Public Art Fund, established by the Class of 1961.

Diana Al-Hadid, *Delirious Matter*, 2018. Collection of the artist, courtesy Marianne Boesky Gallery. © Diana Al-Hadid. The exhibition was organized by Madison Park Conservancy, New York.

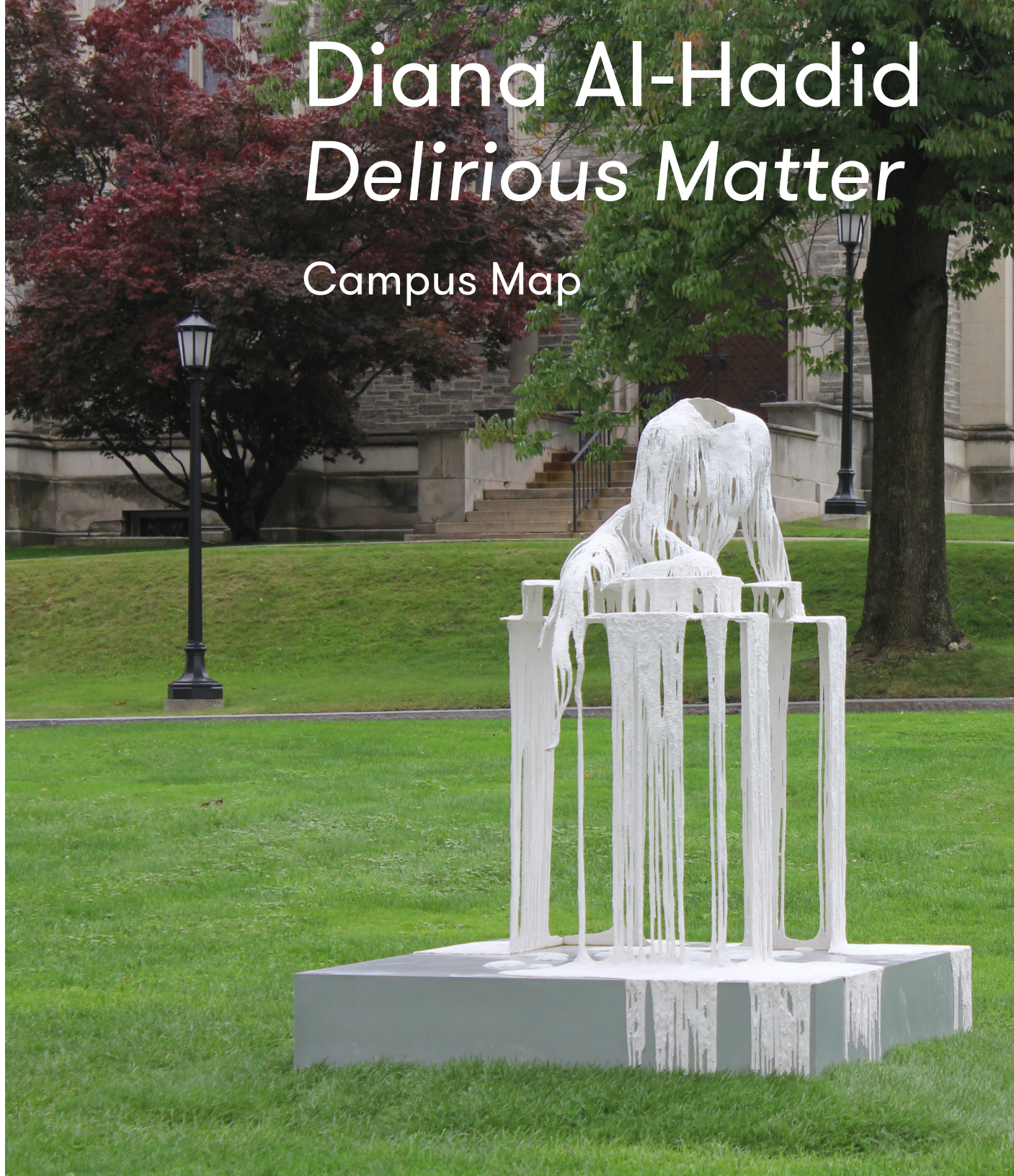
Photos by Elyse Mack MA '20.

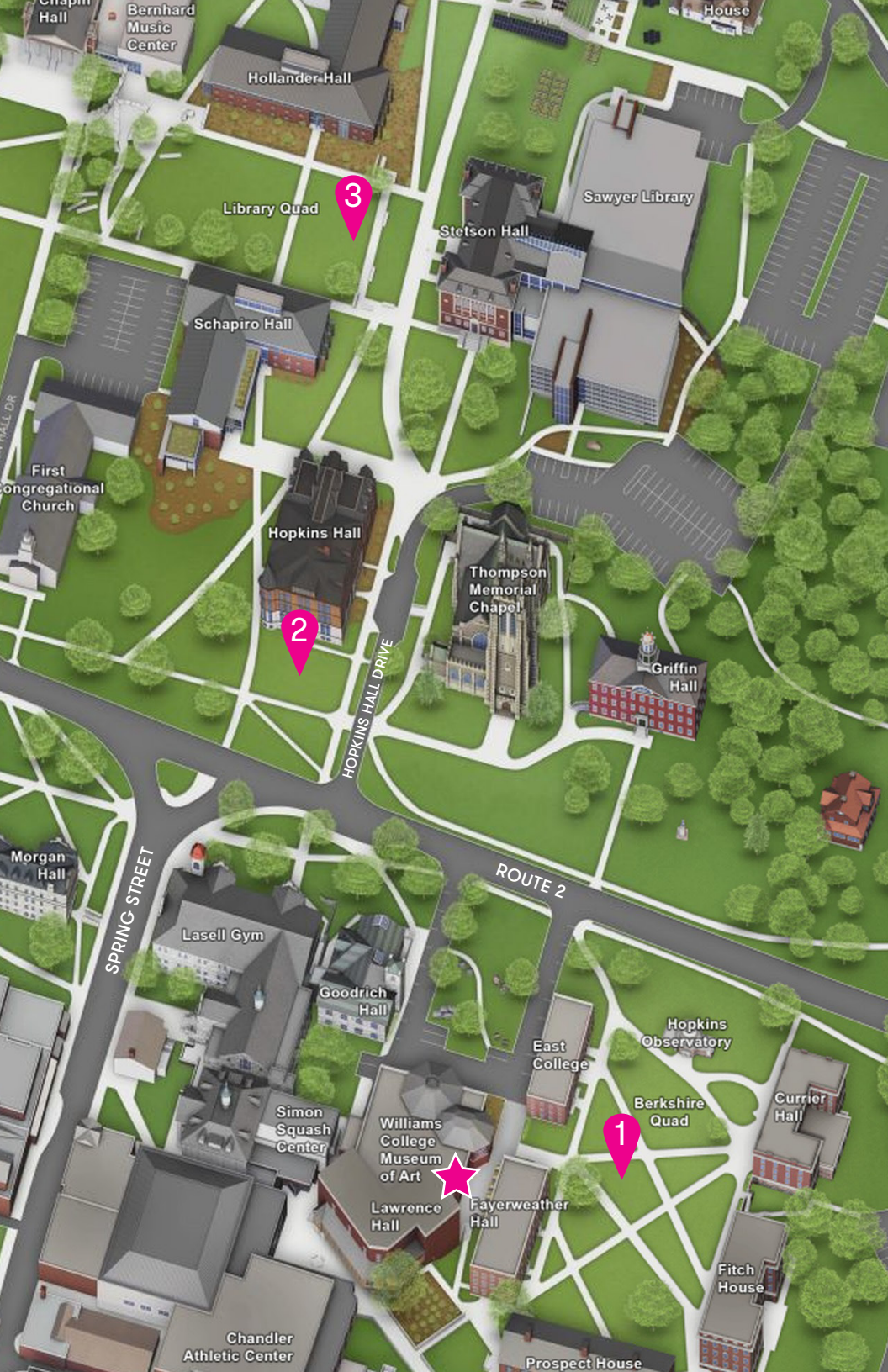
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Diana Al-Hadid *Delirious Matter*

Campus Map





Diana Al-Hadid: *Delirious Matter*

1 Citadel

2017–2018

Steel, polymer gypsum, fiberglass, paint, aluminum, and bronze



2 Synonym

2017–2018

Polymer modified gypsum, fiberglass, powder-coated aluminum, and pigment
Edition 4 of 5, + 1 AP



3 The Grotto Gradiva

2017–2018

Aluminum, steel, polymer gypsum, fiberglass, and pigment



In her first major public art project, Diana Al-Hadid (American, b. Aleppo, Syria 1981) combines aluminum, steel, fiberglass, concrete, polymer modified gypsum, and pigment in four sculptures installed across the Williams campus. Al-Hadid is best known for creating ghostly white sculptures that pivot among architectural ruin, figuration, and abstraction. *Delirious Matter* conjures architecture that evokes archaeological remains, human figures that seep into cascading form, and expanses that hover between interior and exterior.

Two monumental, yet seemingly, diaphanous wall-like structures, *The Grotto* and *Gradiva*, frame the historic façade of Sawyer Library with the rolling mountains in the distance. Subtle female figures in drips of pale greens, browns, and blues emerge from the structures' pale white surfaces. The solitary *Synonym*, an enigmatic life-sized figure of a woman, is the only one of the four sculptures that can be seen from passing vehicles on Route 2 traversing Williamstown and receives visitors to Hopkins Hall, the main administration building on campus. In the towering *Citadel*—located near WCMA, surrounded by dorms, and in proximity to the Old Hopkins Observatory, the oldest extant observatory in the United States—another feminine form materializes from atop the summit of a rough-hewn volcano-like structure. Each of the elements in the exhibition is carefully sited to engage important aspects of Williams history, contemporary campus life, and the unique topography of the area.