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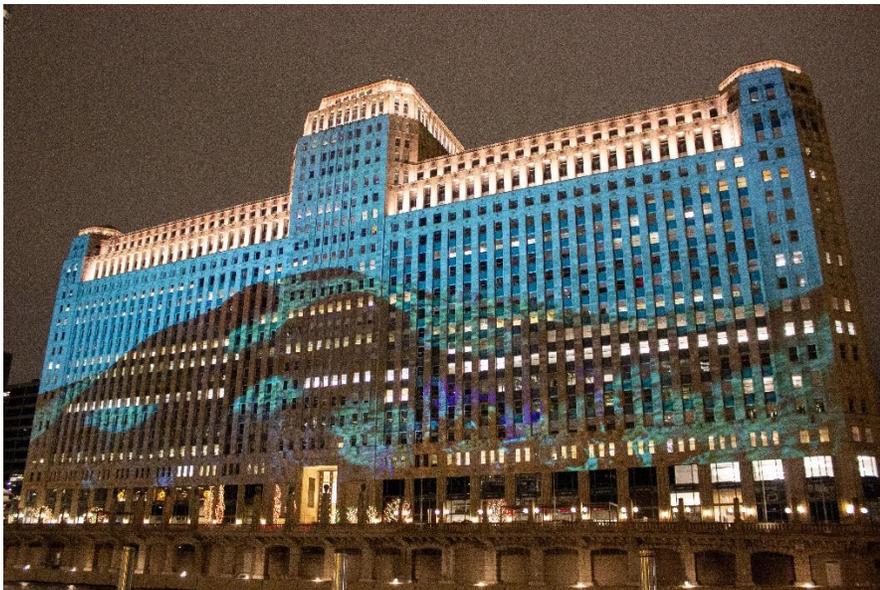
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Choral by localStyle - Photo courtesy of Art on theMART

ART ON THEMART TO KICK OFF 2022 WITH SPRING PROGRAMMING FOCUSED ON CLIMATE CHANGE AWARENESS, YEAR OF CHICAGO DANCE

Two Featured Projections, Presented in Partnership with Shedd Aquarium, Highlight Climate Change, Marine Life and Chicago Dance

CHICAGO –*Art on theMART* is slated to launch its spring program on Chicago’s Riverwalk with the world premiere of two climate change-themed projections to kick off 2022 programming, presented in partnership with Shedd Aquarium. Premiering on the evening of April 9, *Floe* by Carrie Hanson, and featuring contemporary dance company The Seldoms, and *Choral* by Marlena Novak and Jay Yim will run twice nightly through June 29 at 8:30 and 9 p.m. The spring program opening night will be celebrated with a public event on April 9 beginning at 8 p.m.

“Our first projections of 2022 align with Shedd’s mission to protect and preserve the world’s bodies of water, in addition to heralding the Year of Chicago Dance with Carrie Hanson’s choreographed piece,” said Cynthia Noble, executive director of *Art on theMART*. “Situated on the water at the confluence of the three branches of the Chicago River, *Art on theMART* is a powerful platform that will amplify the artists’ expressions about the beauty and fragility of the natural environment.”

Floe — the first of *Art on theMART*’s Year of Chicago Dance projections that will be unveiled throughout 2022 — was created by choreographer and Chicago native Carrie Hanson with her dance company, **The Seldoms**. Derived from an earlier onstage work, *Floe* spotlights climate change, extreme weather, vanishing ice, bodies of water and, ultimately, the human body. *Floe* invites viewers to approach climate change, mitigation and adaptation efforts with clear eyes and resolve. Hanson has teamed with many long-time collaborators, including a stellar team of visual artists. Bob Faust, Liviu Pasare and Andrew Glatt have built a dynamic, emotional projection weaving dance, word and image; and Mikhail Fiksel crafted a soundscape that includes field recordings of icebergs, water and rain. *Floe* is performed by Dee Alaba, Sarah Gonsiorowski, Damon Green and Maggie Vannucci.

Choral is a projection by **localStyle**, a collaborative founded in Amsterdam by artist **Marlena Novak** and composer **Jay Alan Yim**. Since 2000, Novak and Yim have addressed environmental concerns through a wide range of media, deploying tactics that trigger multiple senses so that audience members can experience and consequently re-examine our climate’s most pressing issues. In Novak and Yim’s audiovisual installation, human impacts on the natural world are revealed through a diverse array of coral species while an otherworldly electronic choir drones in the background. These fragile coral ecosystems are in a state of crisis, and Novak and Yim hope that by witnessing the beauty and charisma of these marvelous creatures, audiences will have a greater appreciation for ocean conservation efforts.

“Sparking curiosity and compassion for the aquatic world is at the heart of Shedd Aquarium’s mission, so we are delighted to partner with *Art on theMart* to prompt audiences to consider their relationship to water and the life it sustains,” said Sarah Hezel, vice president of design and exhibits at Shedd Aquarium. “We hope these works of art will resonate with Chicagoans as a call to action to confront climate change and protect our waterways.”

Art on theMART is free and can best be experienced from the jetty section of the Chicago Riverwalk on Wacker Drive between Wells Street and Franklin Street, where accompanying audio can be experienced. Current social distancing practices, based on recommendations from the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois, must be observed by all *Art on theMART* visitors. For more information, visit artonthemart.com.

About *Art on theMART*

Art on theMART, presented in partnership with Chicago’s Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE), is the largest permanent digital art projection in the world, projecting contemporary artwork across the 2.5-acre river-façade of theMART. This expansive permanent

piece of public art continues Chicago's legacy of providing both residents and visitors with exceptional art that is both free and accessible to all. Projections are visible to the public from Wacker Drive and along the Chicago Riverwalk.

The program content rotates seasonally and is selected with the assistance and expertise of the Curatorial Advisory Board. The City of Chicago and theMART work in partnership to manage and curate the projected artwork over the course of a 30-year agreement. Privately funded by Vornado Realty Trust, owner of theMART, Art on theMART marks the first time a projection of its size and scope is completely dedicated to digital art with no branding, sponsorship credits or messaging. The permanent projection system illuminates theMART with 34 state-of-the-art projectors totaling almost one million lumens. For more information, visit artonthemart.com.

About theMART

theMART (formerly The Merchandise Mart), located in the center of the sought-after River North submarket, is interwoven into the fabric of Chicago as an innovator in business, technology, culture, art, media and more. As the largest privately owned commercial building in the United States, it is also one of the world's leading commercial buildings, wholesale design centers and the preeminent international business location in Chicago. Encompassing 4.2 million gross square feet, theMART spans two city blocks, rises 25 stories, and is visited by an average of 30,000 people each business day and nearly 10 million people annually. Offering continuous innovation and creativity from leading manufacturers and design forward showrooms, theMART serves as the home to Chicago's most creative and technologically innovative companies including Motorola Mobility, 1871, Yelp, PayPal and MATTER, as well as Fortune 500 companies ConAgra Brands, Allstate, Medline Industries, Beam Suntory and Grainger. For more information, visit themart.com.

About Shedd Aquarium

The John G. Shedd Aquarium in Chicago sparks compassion, curiosity and conservation for the aquatic animal world. Home to 32,000 aquatic animals representing 1,500 species of fishes, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, birds and mammals from waters around the globe, Shedd is a recognized leader in animal care, conservation education and research. An accredited member of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA), the organization is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and supported by the people of Chicago, the State of Illinois and the Chicago Park District. sheddaquarium.org

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