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***ART ON theMART* ANNOUNCES FULL SUMMER PROJECTION PROGRAM**

Featuring a Collaboration Between Scenic Designer **John Musial** and Lucky Plush Artistic Designer **Julia Rhoads**; and New “Acts” to John Boesche’s Tribute to Chicago Theater

Chicago— On May 13, **theMART**, with the City of Chicago, announced the full summer program for *Art on theMART*, the largest permanent digital art projection in the world. The program debuted on June 9 with a collaborative piece by designer John Musial and Lucky Plush Artistic Director Julia Rhoads and new acts to John Boesche’s multi-part piece *7 soliloquies*. Both the collaboration between Musial and Rhoads and Boesche’s work align with the 2019 Year of Chicago Theatre, a city-wide celebration of Chicago’s theater community spearheaded by the City of Chicago’s Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) and the League of Chicago Theatres.

“We are thrilled to present artworks from a range of creative disciplines for *Art on theMART*’s summer program,” said *Art on theMART* Executive Director **Cynthia Noble**. “From actors to poets to dancers to designers, this iteration seeks to explore the vast range of artistic possibilities this program has as a platform for public art.”

“Both the Chicago Riverwalk and theMART are Chicago institutions, so it is fitting that the two have come together to strengthen the city’s legacy of public art,” said **Former Mayor Emanuel**. “This visionary project has become a Chicago staple, helping to reshape the way people interact with the Chicago River.”

Summer Program

On June 9, *Art on theMART* debuted a collaboration between scenic designer John Musial and Lucky Plush Artistic Director Julia Rhoads. The work, titled *Limelight Parade*, utilizes fragmented choreography and script from Julia Rhoads’ work with Lucky Plush, a Chicago-based dance and theater ensemble, reimagined within John Musial’s layered and evocative projection design. The source material draws from Lucky Plush’s *Rooming House*, in which varied interpretations of personal and mythic storytelling leads down a rabbit hole into the lives of everyday people who do extraordinary things.

“This project brings a surprising intimacy and humanity to the grand stage of theMART’s river-façade, truly reflecting the adventurous and collaborative spirit of Chicago theater,” **Julia Rhoads** stated.

On June 21, John Boesche unveiled the final acts of *7 soliloquies*, a multi-part projection piece that premiered March 13. The work highlights significant Chicago theater artists in brief solo performances. In addition to performers, the work features prominent composers, sound and scenic

designers, puppeteers and visual artists, including Sandra Delgado, Blair Thomas, Mike Nussbaum and more.

Acts currently on view include:

St James Infirmary

creator & performer: Blair Thomas
marionettes & puppet theater: Blair Thomas
music and all instrumental performances: Blair Thomas
sound design: Rob Milburn & Michael Bodeen
animation: Erin Pleake & Joe Burke
additional art and direction: John Boesche

The Tempest

writer: William Shakespeare
performer: Nick Sandys
original music & sound design: Rob Milburn & Michael Bodeen
animation: Joe Burke & John Boesche
direction: John Boesche

La Havana Madrid (song: *No Dejen Que Te Quiten Tu Historia*)

composer & writer: Sandra Delgado
performer: Sandra Delgado
congas: Guiro Acevedo
sound design: Rob Milburn & Michael Bodeen
animation: Joe Burke
direction: John Boesche

Rightlynd

writer: Ike Holter
performer: Robert Cornelius
original art: Stacey Robinson
original music & sound design: Rob Milburn & Michael Bodeen
animation & direction: John Boesche

Smokefall

writer: Noah Haidle
performer: Mike Nussbaum
original art: Yeaji Kim
original music & sound design: Rob Milburn & Michael Bodeen
animation: Erin Pleake & Joe Burke
direction: John Boesche

To Be In Love

writer: Gwendolyn Brooks
performer: Cheryl Lynn Bruce
original art: Kerry James Marshall
© Kerry James Marshall. Courtesy of the artist and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York.

original music & sound design: Rob Milburn & Michael Bodeen
animation & direction: John Boesche

solo ensemble

writer, original music & performer: Julia Rhoads
sound design: Rob Milburn & Michael Bodeen
animation: Joe Burke & John Boesche
additional art & direction: John Boesche

The approximately 15 minute program will loop for two hours each night, beginning approximately 15 minutes after sunset.

Art on theMART 2019 program selections were confirmed by an esteemed Curatorial Advisory Board comprised of several of the city's most distinguished arts and culture leaders. In addition to *Art on theMART* Executive Director **Cynthia Noble**, Curatorial Advisory Board members include Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago Assistant Curator **Grace Deveney**, Art Institute of Chicago Assistant Curator **Robyn Farrell**, EXPO CHICAGO President/Director **Tony Karman**, Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events Director of Public Art **Lydia Ross**, artist **Edra Soto** and artist **Amanda Williams**.

About the Artists

About John Musial

John Musial is a Chicago-based theater maker. He has worked with Chicago Children's Theatre, About Face Theatre, American Theatre Company and many more. Musial received a Jeff Award for the projection design of Lookingglass Theatre's production of "Nelson Algren For Keeps and a Single Day" and was nominated for a Regional Theatre Tony Award for redirecting and editing "Nelson Algren..." for television with WTTW Channel 11. Musial holds a master's degree in Architecture from University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC).

About Julia Rhoads

Julia Rhoads is the founding Artistic Director of Lucky Plush Productions, a MacArthur Award-winning ensemble recognized for its unique blend of dance, theater, comedy and socially relevant themes. Her work has toured to over 55 cities worldwide, reaching notable venues including Joyce Theater (NYC) and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Independent directing and choreography credits include Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Lookingglass Theatre, Redmoon and River North Dance Chicago, among others. Julia's work has been supported by major awards from Herb Alpert Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, National Performance Network, National Theater Project and National Dance Project. Julia received her BA in History from Northwestern University and her MFA in Performance from the School of the Art Institute Chicago. She is currently Director of Dance and Lecturer in Theater and Performance Studies at The University of Chicago.

About John Boesche

From Broadway theater productions to performances by premiere dance companies, John Boesche is an acclaimed Chicago-based media designer with a diverse creative background. Locally, he has worked on productions at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Goodman Theatre, Joffrey Ballet Chicago, Steppenwolf Theatre and many more. He has also worked on dozens of productions nationwide, including "The Glass Menagerie" on Broadway at the Roundabout Theatre. Since 2012, Boesche has been Chair of Digital Media for Live Performance, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

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, Allstate, Kellogg, Beam Suntory and Grainger. For more information, visit <http://themart.com/>.

About Art on theMART

Art on theMART 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 two hours a night for ten months of the year (March – December), beginning approximately 15 minutes after sundown. The projections are regularly on view five nights a week from Wednesday – Sunday, with expanded nightly viewing from May 13 – September 30, 2019.

The program content rotates every season 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 will be 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 www.artonthemart.com.

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