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## **Dance-Themed Projections Slated for *Art on theMART* in 2022 in Celebration of Year of Chicago Dance**

### Featured Projections Spotlight Chicago-Based Choreographers, Dancers and Artists

CHICAGO – The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) has announced that 2022 is the Year of Chicago Dance: a year-long celebration of Chicago's cultural contributions to the art form. ***Art on theMART*** is queuing up four new projections for 2022 that will spotlight Chicago dance and the dancers, choreographers and visual artists that bring the medium to its full potential.

Choreographer and Chicago native Carrie Hanson has created a new projection with her dance company, The Seldoms. Derived from an earlier work-for-stage, *Floe* is a piece that spotlights climate change, extreme weather, vanishing ice, denialism, bodies of water and, ultimately, bodies. *Floe* invites Chicagoans to approach climate change, mitigation and adaptation efforts with clear eyes, resolve and "big shoulders." Hanson teamed with several long-time collaborators for this project. A stellar team of visual artists (Bob Faust, Liviu Pasare and Andrew Glatt) assembled a dynamic, emotional projection by weaving dance, word and image. Mikhail Fiksel crafted a soundscape that includes field recordings of icebergs, water and rain; Maria Pinto created architectural garments in an array of watery blues; Seth Bockley provided text that moves from irreverent to elegiac. Performers include Sarah Gonsiorowski, Damon Green and Maggie Vannucci. *Floe* will be on-view during *Art on theMART*'s upcoming summer season from May 6 to June 29, 2022.

*Trap Moulin Rouge* by Jasmin Taylor, in co-production with *Motion/Pictures* Dance Project, takes audiences to Chicago's South Side to showcase the vibrant culture and dance that emanates from it. Taking sonic and aesthetic inspiration from the 2001 film "Moulin Rouge," *Trap Moulin Rouge* combines classical, R&B and jazz melodies with a variety of dance styles with the aim of creating and promoting equity in Chicago through the performing

arts. *Trap Moulin Rouge* is slated for *Art on theMART*'s fall season running from September 8 through November 17, 2022.

Also featured in *Art on theMART*'s fall season is a new projection by dance company leader Shkunna Stewart and filmmaker Wills Glasspiegel which features youth dance groups like Bringing Out Talent who are known for performing at parades and in dance contests across the city. Their new projection includes original animations from dancer Brandon K. Calhoun, an electronic music soundtrack and a marching band. Glasspiegel and Calhoun collaborated with Art on theMART in 2021 on *Footnotes*, a projection focused on Chicago Footwork dance and music that won TimeOut Chicago's Best in the City Award for the category of public art.

"Everyone knows Chicago as the birthplace of a variety of music genres, including jazz and house music, but Chicago's contributions to the art of dance go hand-in-hand with this musical legacy," said Cynthia Noble, director of *Art on theMART*. "*Art on theMART* is proud to provide a prominent canvas for local dancers, choreographers and visual artists to showcase their work."

Additional content for fall 2022 includes *Love Letters*, a projection by Chinese-born, Chicago-based artist Yuge Zhou, which portrays a lively courtship dance between two urban dwellers searching for each other through a labyrinth of colorful geometrics with growing curiosity, electricity and affection. *Love Letters* features original choreography by Hannah Santistevan, performances by Rebecca Huang and Joffrey dancer Xavier Nunez, computational animation by Mary Franck and Patrick Steppan, sound by Ben LaMar Gay. Yuge Zhou recently won the juried ArtPrize 2021 and a fellowship in Media Arts from the Illinois Arts Council, and is a resident at NEW INC, an incubator for the New Museum in New York City.

For more information on *Art on theMART*, visit [www.artonthemart.com](http://www.artonthemart.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 public art platform 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 [www.artonthemart.com](http://www.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, Allstate, Kellogg, Beam Suntory and Grainger. For more information, visit <http://themart.com>.

**About the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events**

The Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) is dedicated to enriching Chicago's artistic vitality and cultural vibrancy. This includes fostering the development of Chicago's non-profit arts sector, independent working artists and for-profit arts businesses; providing a framework to guide the City's future cultural and economic growth, via the Chicago Cultural Plan; marketing the City's cultural assets to a worldwide audience; and presenting high-quality, free and affordable cultural programs for residents and visitors. For more information, visit [Chicago.gov/dcase](http://Chicago.gov/dcase).

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