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ChiArts ALUMNI TO EXHIBIT AT SOFA CHICAGO

Chicago, Illinois – [The Chicago High School for the Arts \(ChiArts®\)](#) will present an exhibition titled ***Four Years Later: New Work by Six ChiArts Alumni*** at this year's [Sculpture Objects Functional Art and Design \(SOFA\) Fair](#) in Chicago on November 3-6. This year, ChiArts' first class of graduates will complete the next step in their artistic development – college and conservatory graduation, and the beginning of their professional careers. The alumni work showcased at SOFA CHICAGO this year shows what is possible when a promising young artist is given access to the tools, training, and artistic freedom to explore art-making from an early age.

"We are so grateful to SOFA CHICAGO for giving ChiArts' accomplished alumni the opportunity to share their personal journeys of artistic development and showcase how their training has influenced their current artistic vision and voice," said **José Ochoa, ChiArts Executive and Artistic Director**. *"This collection shows the profound impact ChiArts' students and alumni are already beginning to have on the arts community in Chicago and beyond."*

ChiArts is also pleased to announce that [Tricia Van Eck, Artistic Director and Founder of 6108North](#), will co-present a special lecture at SOFA entitled "ChiArts: The Group Critique. Live" with ChiArts' Visual Arts Department Chair, Whitney Bradshaw. In lieu of a traditional lecture, Van Eck and Bradshaw will conduct a live group critique with the students to show the audience how ChiArts' visual artists are trained to discuss and evaluate each other's work. At ChiArts, the group critique is incorporated into every unit plan beginning as early as 9th grade. By the time students graduate high school they are able to lead an honest, thoughtful and challenging critique while being able to successfully self-assess their own work.

ChiArts' Special Exhibit will be located in [Booth SE 1621](#), and the Group Critique lecture will be held on Saturday, November 5 in SOFA lecture room A from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm.

Tricia Van Eck founded 6018North in May 2011 as an artist-centered, sustainable, nonprofit platform and venue for innovative art and culture. Named after its physical address in Edgewater, 6018North is also itinerant and presents shows around Chicago, nationally, and internationally. 6018North consistently receives accolades from local and international press but remains a hidden gem for intimate encounters with artists' multidisciplinary work. Previously Van Eck worked 13 years as a curator at Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago organizing more than 70 exhibitions and programs. Her focus on experimental, audience engaged, and interactive shows from one-person encounters to large group exhibitions has informed 6018North's work to enrich Chicago by nurturing artists to connect with audiences in transformative ways.

6018north.org

Whitney Bradshaw is the Visual Arts Department Chair at ChiArts. Before that, Bradshaw was the curator of the renowned LaSalle Bank Photography Collection, the Bank of America Collection and an adjunct professor at Columbia College Chicago for 13 years. As a curator, she developed more than 40 exhibitions, which have been loaned to museums and cultural centers throughout the United States, Europe and Asia. In addition, she has published a number of books and essays on the collection's holdings and served on the editorial board of the Columbia College Press. Bradshaw's personal work can be found in the permanent collection of the Museum of Contemporary Photography as well as numerous private collections, and has been published in the New York Times and the Chicago Tribune.

whitneybradshaw.com

ChiArts Alumni Artists featured at SOFA CHICAGO include:

[Harlan Ballogg](#) – School Of Visual Arts, NY (Painting and Illustration)

[Cris R Hernandez](#) – California Institute of the Arts (Graphic Design)

[Jonathan Herrera](#) – Minneapolis College of Art and Design (Print, Paper, and Book)

[Miguel Ontiveros](#) – School of the Art Institute of Chicago (Photography and Design)

[Shaquita Reed](#) – Columbia College Chicago (Fashion)

[Marie Sommers](#) – Studied at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Now an independent Artist working in Milwaukee (Figurative Painting, Set Design)

ABOUT ChiArts

ChiArts is Chicago's first and only public high school for the arts. With disciplines in creative writing, dance, music, theatre, and visual arts, ChiArts provides its students with a pre-professional arts training program paired with a college-preparatory academic curriculum. While Chicago Public Schools provides per-pupil support for the academic program, the arts conservatories at ChiArts are wholly funded by individual, corporate and foundation donors. ChiArts opened its doors in 2009 and has graduated four classes of "scholar-artists" at a rate between 92-95% each year. ChiArts was recently named an Exemplary School by the Arts Schools Network.

For more information about ChiArts, visit chiarts.org.

ABOUT SOFA CHICAGO

Founded in 1994, SOFA CHICAGO (Sculpture Objects Functional Art and Design) is Chicago's longest continuously running art fair and the world's foremost fair dedicated to masterworks of contemporary art and design in all media. Presented by international art galleries, SOFA CHICAGO (November 3-6) offers the best in museum-quality contemporary art and design. Artist talks, panel discussions and special exhibit are included with admission. For more information visit www.sofaexpo.com

SOFA CHICAGO is owned by Atlanta-based Urban Expositions, which produces Art Aspen, Art Hamptons, Houston Art Fair, and Art Palm Springs. All art fairs are presented by galleries from around the world exhibiting modern and contemporary art in a variety of media including painting, photography, sculpture, and mixed-media.

For more information about Urban's art and design fairs, visit the following websites:

[Art Aspen](#) | [Art Hamptons](#) | [Art Palm Springs](#) | [Houston Art Fair](#)

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