



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CHIARTS VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT TO PRESENT SENIOR SHOWCASE EXHIBITION AT MANA
CONTEMPORARY CHICAGO**

The Chicago High School for the Arts (ChiArts®)'s valued Arts Partner Mana Contemporary Chicago will host ChiArts' Visual Art Department's Senior Showcase Exhibition in May 2016. Including original works made by this year's graduating students from the Class of 2016, the show will officially open to the public on Friday, May 13th, from 9-5 p.m. in Mana Contemporary's sixth floor gallery space, 2233 S. Throop St. (East Entrance), and will remain open for viewing during the day from May 13-25th with the following gallery hours: Monday thru Friday, 11am-5pm and Saturday, 12-4pm. **A public reception will be held from 6-9 p.m. on Friday, May 13, 2016.**

The Senior Showcase is the culminating exhibition of a ChiArts visual art student's high school career. The works on view will include a selection of pieces from each of the seniors' year-long thesis investigation made while in their respective AP studio major course. ChiArts' Visual Arts Department offers the following majors: painting/drawing, graphic design, photography and sculpture/mixed media. In addition to their thesis work many of the students will have original works on view which they made in their senior elective courses. This year's electives include: Digital Media, Wearable Sculpture, Sequential Arts and Contemporary Practices: Performance and Installation.

In addition to the opportunity to explore the exhibition itself, attendees will have the chance to visit the studios of Mana Contemporary Chicago resident artists.

"We are thrilled to present our senior students' work at Mana Contemporary Chicago for the third year in a row," said Whitney Bradshaw, ChiArts' Visual Arts Department Head. *"The Visual Artists from the Class of 2016 have honed their artistic skills for nearly 2,300 hours in our studios at ChiArts, and we are proud to present their final work at such an extraordinary public venue as Mana Contemporary Chicago."*

About ChiArts: *The Chicago High School for the Arts (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 three classes of “scholar-artists” at a rate between 92-95% each year. ChiArts was recently ranked in the top 6% of high schools nation-wide and will graduate its fourth senior class in June 2016.

About Mana Contemporary Chicago: *Mana Contemporary Chicago is a rapidly expanding art center set in an enormous landmark building in Chicago’s Pilsen neighborhood. Designed by noted Chicago architect George Nimmons, the building is now home to dozens of artists’ studios, exhibition spaces, classrooms, a central café, a library and more. Mana serves as a nexus for many of the strongest artists and organizations in the city. Artists of diverse disciplines, including painting, sculpture, photography, dance, film, sound, and performance work alongside each other in a novel campus environment which fosters experimentation, collaboration, and mutual inspiration. Very established artists; studios neighbor those that house strong emerging practice, as there is a wide range of studio sizes.*

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