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***Art on theMART* to Resume November 12 with New Projections by Joffrey Ballet,
the Art Institute of Chicago and Arts of Life**

30-Minute Program to Run Nightly at 7:00 and 7:30 p.m. through December 30

CHICAGO – In partnership with Chicago’s Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, ***Art on theMART*** will resume projections on Thursday, November 12 with an all new program. Just in time to celebrate the holidays, **The Joffrey Ballet** will debut a moving-image work of art featuring production images from its acclaimed production of the Christmas classic *The Nutcracker* set to music from Tchaikovsky’s beloved score; the **Art Institute of Chicago** will present images from two of its current exhibitions, *Monet and Chicago*, and *Bisa Butler: Portraits*; and **Arts of Life**, a nonprofit working with individuals with physical and intellectual disabilities, will show a compilation of the artists’ bold images, animated together as a video projection.

The 30-minute program of projections will be shown nightly at 7:00 and 7:30 p.m. through December 30, and can be viewed for free from the jetty section of the Chicago Riverwalk on Wacker Drive between Wells Street and Franklin Street. In accordance with Chicago’s Phase Four pandemic guidelines, no more than 100 people can be on the Riverwalk jetty and all must comply with social distancing regulations. All spectators must wear masks. The November 12 projections will also be livestreamed on Facebook.

The Joffrey Ballet’s *The Nutcracker*

This projection inspired by Joffrey Ballet’s *The Nutcracker* allows visitors to experience scenes from the holiday classic as they listen to Tchaikovsky’s famous score. The Joffrey’s rendition is set during the 1893 World’s Fair and follows Marie, a young girl who receives a magical nutcracker for Christmas and is transported to a magnificent world beyond her wildest dreams. Representing the innovation, ingenuity and hope of Chicago, the production features the work of Tony Award®-winning choreographer Christopher Wheeldon.

"We must remember that now, more than ever, the world needs hope, optimism, and joy," said Greg Cameron, President and Chief Executive Officer. "Though the holiday season will look a lot different this year, we must celebrate the galvanizing moments when we can. To share the story of the Joffrey’s Nutcracker on one of the largest public canvases in the world will be a visible and vivid reminder to all that love has the power to unite."

Art Institute of Chicago: *Monet and Chicago* and *Bisa Butler: Portraits*

In conjunction with the Art Institute of Chicago exhibition *Monet and Chicago*, Art on theMART illuminates the city’s historic riverfront building with projections of six iconic paintings by famed Impressionist Claude Monet, including Monet’s *Water Lilies* and *Stacks of Wheat*, accompanied

by the classical music composition “Clair de Lune” by Claude Debussy. Art on theMART’s Monet projection offers a new multisensory experience of the beloved works. *Monet and Chicago* is on display at the Art Institute through January 18, 2021.

Art on theMART will also project captivating portraits by contemporary American artist Bisa Butler in alignment with the Art Institute of Chicago’s exhibition *Bisa Butler: Portraits*. Butler’s portrait quilts present an expansive view of history and engage with themes such as family, community, migration, the promise of youth, and artistic legacies. A selection of Butler’s artworks accompanied by custom sound provided by the artist, will extend her vision into Chicago’s architectural landscape. *Bisa Butler: Portraits* is on display at the Art Institute through April 19, 2021.

“The Art Institute is delighted to celebrate these two distinct narratives that both resonate—in very different ways—with the city’s history and its evolving present,” said Nora Gainer, Director of Civic Relations and Partnerships, Art Institute of Chicago. “We are grateful for the innovation of Art on theMART for helping us share these stories on their very public stage.”

Arts of Life: *City Circle Heart*

City Circle Heart features the work of five studio artists with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The projection is a compilation of colorful, abstract images that are knitted together in a dynamic moving image display that will attract people of all abilities to appreciate the movement, colors and unique soundscape. Participating artists are Marcelo Añón, Veronica Cuculich, Stefan Harhaj, Hector Jones and Maria Vanik with motion graphics by Lisa Armstrong and sound design by Chris Kalis.

“*Art on theMART* provides an ideal opportunity to highlight our commitment to supporting artistic expression, to providing professional development opportunities for artists with intellectual and developmental disabilities and to introducing our artists’ work to new audiences,” said Denise Fisher, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Arts of Life. “This featured presentation is a perfect culminating project for our 20th Anniversary.”

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.

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 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.

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 2012 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 cityofchicago.org/dccase.

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