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MEDIA ALERT * * * MEDIA ALERT * * * MEDIA ALERT

**NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION SECOND ANNUAL
YOUNGARTS AWARENESS DAY
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2015**

**#becauseofyoungarts Nationwide Advocacy Campaign to Encourage
Young Artists to Pursue their Passions of Becoming Professional Artists**

**Miami Celebrations Featuring YoungArts Alumni
Unveils New Interactive Exhibition by Daniel Arsham,
Curated by Newly Appointed Director of PAMM Franklin Sirmans**

**6:30PM YoungArts Salon Featuring Arsham and Sirmans
in Conversation at Ted's**

WHAT: The National YoungArts Foundation's (YoungArts) second annual *YoungArts Awareness Day*, a nationwide initiative to encourage emerging artists to pursue their dreams of becoming professional artists, will take place on September 24, 2015. In **Miami**, where YoungArts is headquartered, an interactive installation of new work by **Daniel Arsham** (1999 YoungArts Winner in Visual Arts) curated by the most recently appointed Director of Perez Art Museum Miami **Franklin Sirmans**, will open to the public in conjunction with a YoungArts Salon at Ted's. Sponsored by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Salon will feature Arsham in person and Sirmans via videoconference in conversation about the exhibition.

While *YoungArts Awareness Day* looks toward inspiring the future, Arsham will be transporting audiences to another time through a wholly immersive and evolving exhibition. The Miami native's installation will transform the YoungArts Gallery by covering the first floor's walls with black chalkboard paint and peppering nearly 2,000 objects made of chalk on pedestals and on the floor throughout the space. In signature Arsham style, these objects will represent body parts, such as hands and faces, as well as

outmoded communication devices including cameras, telephones, video game controllers, and computers.

On view through December 11, visitors of all ages are encouraged to write, draw and make their markings on the walls of the gallery, with the chalk casts progressively disappearing throughout the duration of the show. Epitomizing many of the prevalent themes and motifs in Arsham's work—including the interplay of archaeology and architecture, eroding environments overtaken by nature, and the blurred line between the real and imagined—the exhibition will provide visitors with a unique experience as actors and creators over a couple months' time.

YoungArts Awareness Day aims to underscore the opportunities available to emerging artists (ages 15-18 or in high school grades 10-12) through the organization that provides them with life-changing experiences to help ensure they are supported in their pursuit of careers in the arts. For over 34 years, YoungArts has supported tens of thousands of artists who have become successful leaders in their fields, including Doug Aitken, Conrad Tao, Desmond Richardson and Kerry Washington. Applications to become a part of the 35th Anniversary Class of YoungArts Winners are available at youngarts.org/apply through October 16, 2015.

Other *YoungArts Awareness Day* celebrations include contemporaneous events featuring YoungArts alumni in New York and Los Angeles (for more information, please click [here](#)).

WHO:

Daniel Arsham, visual artist (1999 YoungArts Winner in Visual Arts)
Franklin Sirmans, Director of Perez Art Museum Miami (via videoconference)

For interviews, please contact dcarrington@youngarts.org / 305-377-1140.

**WHEN,
WHERE &
TICKETS:**

Thursday, September 24, 2015
YoungArts Salon Series: Daniel Arsham and Franklin Sirmans in Conversation
Sponsored by Knight Foundation
6:30 – 7:00pm – Cocktails
7:00 – 8:00pm - Salon
Ted's at YoungArts
2100 Biscayne Boulevard, Tower Building, 7th Floor

For tickets, please register at www.arshamsirmans.eventbrite.com
Admission: Students \$20, Members \$27, General \$35

YoungArts Gallery
2100 Biscayne Boulevard, Tower Building, 1st and 2nd Floor
8:00 – 10:00pm - Opening reception
Free admission with registration at www.arshamsirmans.eventbrite.com

Exhibition on view from September 25 through December 11
Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Friday 10:00am – 4:00pm; weekends by appointment; closed on Mondays
Free and open to the public.

For additional admissions information, please contact Katie Breuil
kbreuil@youngarts.org / 305-377-1140

For media tickets, please contact Dejha Carrington at dcarrington@youngarts.org / 305-377-1140.

**ADDITIONAL
WAYS TO GET
INVOLVED:**

YoungArts encourages the public to share how the arts have impacted their communities with the hashtags **#becauseofyoungarts** and **#KeepArtsAlive**.

As part of *YoungArts Awareness Day*, **Josh Groban** (1999 YoungArts Winner in Theater) will host a live Q&A about arts education and his own Find Your Light Foundation on the [YoungArts Facebook](#) page starting at 3:00pm EST.

In New York, **Andrew Rannells** (1997 YoungArts Winner in Theater), **Zuzanna Szadkowski** (1997 YoungArts Winner in Theater and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts), and **Tony Yazbeck** (1997 YoungArts Winner in Theater) will be at the helm of a dynamic Broadway showcase. In Los Angeles, **Black Gatsby (D'Angelo Lacy)** (2005 YoungArts Winner in Theater) will direct a disco/pop concert starring **India Carney** (2011 YoungArts Winner in Theater, Voice and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts), among others.

MORE INFO: www.youngarts.org

ABOUT THE NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION

The National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts) was established in 1981 by Lin and Ted Arison to identify and support the next generation of artists in the visual, literary, design and performing arts; assist them at critical junctures in their educational and professional development; and raise appreciation for the arts in American society. Each year, there are approximately 11,000 applications to YoungArts from 15-18 year old (or grades 10-12) artists, and from these, approximately 800 Winners are selected.

YoungArts Winners have the chance to work with renowned mentors, such as **Mikhail Baryshnikov, Plácido Domingo, Frank Gehry, Jeff Koons, Wynton Marsalis, Robert Redford, Rebecca Walker and Bruce Weber**; receive cash awards of up to \$10,000; gain access to significant scholarships; be recognized as a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts (YoungArts is the nominating agency for this high honor for artistically-talented graduating high school seniors); and perform and exhibit their work at some of the nation's leading cultural institutions, including the **John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts** (Washington, D.C.), **The Metropolitan Museum**

of Art (New York), **The Museum of Modern Art** (New York) and **New World Center** (Miami). YoungArts Winners also become part of the strong YoungArts alumni network of artists, which offers them additional opportunities throughout their careers.

Carnival Foundation is the YoungArts National Premier Sponsor.

For more information, visit youngarts.org, facebook.com/YoungArtsFoundation or twitter.com/YoungArts. To watch a brief video about YoungArts, [click here](#).

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