

**NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION'S RESIDENCY PROGRAM EXPANDS INTO
MIAMI COMMUNITIES WITH IN PROCESS: HOMECOMING**

**MIAMI NATIVE JAMES ALLISTER SPRANG AND COLLABORATOR JULIE ZHU PREMIERE
PARTITE, AN INSTALLATION ON RACE AND REPRESENTATION IN AMERICA – OCT. 7**

MIAMI, FL (September 26, 2017) – National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts) presents In Process: Homecoming, an artist-in-residence program dedicated to interdisciplinary collaboration between two alumni at seminal stages of their careers. Shining light on Miami as a unique place where artists feel deeply connected to their experience, YoungArts has invited alumni with ties to the local community to its Miami campus for a weeklong residency to create new work. Provided with the time, space and resources to experiment and innovate, they will then take their works-in-development to the Miami neighborhood they feel most connected to, further expanding YoungArts' programs in communities throughout the city.

Multidisciplinary artists James Allister Sprang (2008 Winner in Visual Arts) and Julie Zhu (2008 Winner in Visual Arts) will launch the first edition of In Process: Homecoming from October 2–7, 2017. Titled “Partite,” the public presentation of In Process: Homecoming with Sprang and Zhu will take place on Saturday, October 7 at 7 pm at 4141 NE 2nd Avenue, Suite 105F. This event is free and open with RSVP at homecomingjames.eventbrite.com.

“I find myself in an exciting place in my career and I am excited to share my advancements as an artist with the same Miami community that fostered and sheltered my childhood creativity,” says Sprang. “Julie and I have been interested in collaborating for some time now and many of the historical narratives, formal techniques and philosophical aesthetics that inform our work are both harmonious and complementary.”

Sprang spent his formative years from 2004 to 2008 attending Design and Architecture Senior High (DASH). Together with Zhu, he combines sculpture, installation, photography and sound to create artistic tensions akin to the racial and cultural tensions in today's America. Utilizing broken pigmented concrete to create saturated cairns, Sprang references the mediation and representation of black bodies in America through his own take on formal and spatial abstraction. After imaging his cairns from an aerial perspective and printing the images at a monumental scale, he then places them on hovering concrete plinths. It is through this framework that he invites the viewer to partake in his rumination on the representation of black American life.

In a continuation of the tensions at play, Sprang's sculptural installation and images are heightened by Zhu's deconstruction of a classical string quartet—a conceptual re-making of Guthrie's “This Land Is Your Land”. The resulting disembodied instrumentation constructs a sonic space allowing viewers to traverse from consonance to dissonance. Both first-generation Americans, Sprang and Zhu invite viewers to experience their take on Americana in the surround.

“YoungArts continuously works to ensure that this country's best young artists are encouraged to pursue their artistic path,” said Carolina García Jayaram, YoungArts President and CEO. “We recently announced new programs and initiatives that build on our commitment to championing emerging alumni as they transition from student to professional; and with In Process: Homecoming, we're proud to invite Miami natives back to their communities to connect with local audiences and share their works in progress.”

In conjunction with the residency, YoungArts will host the first installment of its new membership event series, Up Close and Personal. In partnership with the Miami Design District, YoungArts President & CEO Carolina García Jayaram will be joined by visionary developer Craig Robins and participating artists-in-residence James Allister Sprang and Julie Zhu for a conversation Wednesday, October 4, 2017. Those interested in attending the event or learning more about YoungArts Membership should contact Amy Rosenberg, Director of Annual Giving at arosenberg@youngarts.org.

Miami Design District is the Supporting Partner for this edition of In Process: Homecoming. Additional support for YoungArts programs is provided by National Premier Sponsor Carnival Foundation; Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners; State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture; and Wells Fargo.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION

The National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts) was established in 1981 by Lin and Ted Arison to identify and nurture the most accomplished young artists in the visual, literary, design and performing arts, and assist them at critical junctures in their educational and professional development. Through a wide range of annual programs, regular performances, and partnerships with some of the nation's leading cultural institutions, YoungArts aspires to create a strong community of alumni and a platform for a lifetime of encouragement, opportunity and support.

YoungArts' signature program is an application-based award for emerging artists ages 15 – 18 or in grades 10 – 12 from across the United States. Selected through a blind adjudication process, YoungArts Winners receive valuable support, including financial awards of up to \$10,000, professional development and educational experiences working with renowned mentors—such as Debbie Allen, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Rebecca Walker, Plácido Domingo, Frank Gehry, Jeff Koons, Wynton Marsalis, Salman Rushdie and Carrie Mae Weems—and performance and exhibition opportunities 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). Additionally, YoungArts Winners are eligible for nomination as a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students who exemplify academic and artistic excellence. YoungArts Winners become part of a thousands-strong alumni network of artists, which offers them additional professional opportunities throughout their careers. YoungArts alumni who have gone on to become leading professionals in their fields include actresses Viola Davis, Anna Gunn, Zuzanna Szadkowski and Kerry Washington; Broadway stars Raúl Esparza, Billy Porter, Andrew Rannells and Tony Yazbeck; recording artists Josh Groban, Judith Hill and Chris Young; Metropolitan Opera star Eric Owens; musicians Terence Blanchard, Gerald Clayton, Jennifer Koh and Elizabeth Roe; choreographers Camille A. Brown and Desmond Richardson; visual artists Daniel Arsham and Hernan Bas; internationally acclaimed multimedia artist Doug Aitken; New York Times bestselling author Sam Lipsyte; and Academy Award winners Doug Blush and Tarell A. McCraney.

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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