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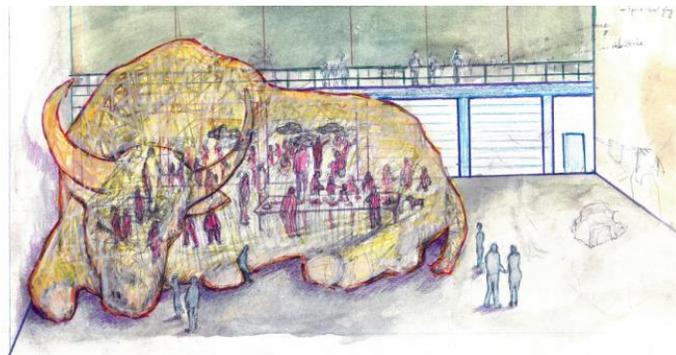
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HYDE PARK ART CENTER
75 YEARS
OF MAKING CHICAGO'S
ART HAPPEN

Exhibition Reception

Sunday, April 13, 3 – 5 pm
Special musical performance by
New Material 3:45 pm

**For a complete schedule of
companion programming,
visit hydeparkart.org**



**HYDE PARK ART CENTER PRESENTS JOHN PREUS: THE BEAST
APRIL 13 – AUGUST 3, 2014**

Beast Structure Will House Companion Event Series

Chicago—Intertwining spectacle and site, **John Preus’ “The Beast,”** becomes a new space for cultural inquiry, public dialogue and creative production within the **Hyde Park Art Center**, April 13 – August 3. Fabricating a large structure from harvested materials including discarded furniture from recently closed Chicago Public Schools, Preus will transform the gallery’s interior with a complex architectural framework inspired by the form of a dead steer, emblematic of violence and sacrifice. The gallery will exist as an artist-run space throughout the span of the exhibition, and will be activated through corresponding performances, discussions and educational offerings programmed by Preus and various collaborators.

Best known for his work as the lead fabricator for Theaster Gates, and as the principal designer and builder of the Dorchester Projects’ Archive House, Preus founded Dilettante Studios in 2010, which designs and builds cabinets, furniture, and residential and commercial spaces, relying almost exclusively on second-hand materials. He also co-founded SHOP (Southside Hub of Production), a collective of artists, educators, and local civic organizations with curator Laura Schaeffer, and has collaborated with countless others on projects that make up his multifaceted practice as an artist, builder, writer, and musician. “The Beast” is the culmination of

Preus' yearlong participation in the **Jackman Goldwasser Residency** at Hyde Park Art Center, and is his first major solo exhibition.

"Preus has a strong aesthetic. He moves the conversation past adaptive re-use through his practice of harvesting discarded building materials," said **Allison Peters Quinn**, Director of Exhibitions & Residency Programs at Hyde Park Art Center. "Out of the carcass of 'The Beast' grows a hopeful forum of ideas, turning negativity into a constructive force that the whole community can take part in."

In "The Beast," Preus' skill in design using recycled materials meets with his interest in creative placemaking and architecture, drawing heavily on his new and longstanding relationships with creative groups and individuals. The large-scale, two-floor intervention responds to the Art Center's experimental architecture, and echoes its mission to engage the community through participation in the arts. The belly of "The Beast," which will resemble the skeletal structure of a cathedral interior and will open to the Art Center's outdoor plaza, will serve a site for storytelling, live music, sermons, panel discussions, dinners, and more. The diverse programming schedule seeks to raise questions about the use and social value of public space, and how collective experience can encourage the development of a better city.

"John Preus has been a leader in the artistic community on the South Side for many years, and is known for being part of powerful collaborative projects," said **Kate Lorenz**, Hyde Park Art Center's Executive Director. "We are extremely proud to have the opportunity to present his first major solo show in our 75th year, as his project reflects and critiques some of the core concepts at play when we ask the question of what purpose an art center should serve today."

In celebration of "The Beast" and concurrent exhibitions on view at the Hyde Park Art Center, a public reception will be held April 13 from 3 – 5 pm with special remarks by Lorenz. Preus will be available for interviews leading up to the opening, and will participate in many of the events listed below.

Beastly Program Highlights

Programmed conversations, workshops and presentations led by activists, academics and cultural producers will include a wide range of topics that both inspired the image of "The Beast," and will be inspired by the installation. Programming is intended to be responsive to the community, and to develop throughout the course of the exhibition.

Visit the exhibition website via hydeparkart.org to view an up-to-date calendar of events.

Getting Involved with Your Local Arts Organization: A Civic Knowledge Project U Chicago-UConnect Initiative

8 Sessions, 4 – 6 pm

Mondays and Wednesdays, April 14 through May 7

Arts organizations are transforming from pure cultural organizations to educational, service-oriented entities, as artists evolve from working strictly in studio practices to new art forms that invite direct engagement with their audiences. Join bi-weekly provocative conversations on this topic, led by Bart Schultz and John Preus.

Colin Ward Memorial Potluck Conversation Series

Every Thursday at 6 pm (unless otherwise noted)

Colin Ward was an English architect, writer, organizer, urban planner, and anarchist thinker devoted to forms of non-authoritarian social organization, with a keen interest in the experience of children within urban environments. In 1971, he became the Education Officer for the Town and Country Planning Association. He published widely on education, architecture and town planning. His most influential book was *The Child in the City* (1978), about children's street culture. From 1995-96, Ward was Centennial Professor of Housing and Social Policy at the London School of Economics. He died in 2010. These potlucks are named in his honor, and serve as a place to reflect upon the many things he spent his life thinking and writing about. Bring your thoughts, your ideas, and food or drink to share during the presentation.

Saturday School

Every Saturday

Saturday School is ongoing youth programming organized by Laura Shaeffer, including story time and art making workshops.

On Disappointment with Simon Critchley

April 18, 6 – 8 pm

John Preus and scholars Simon Critchley and Bart Schultz discuss political disappointment as the inspiration behind great thinking and social change. Critchley is Chair and Professor of Philosophy at the New School for Social Research in New York and Professor at the European Graduate School in Saas-Fee, Switzerland. Schultz is Senior Lecturer in Humanities, Special Programs Coordinator for the Graham School of General Studies, and Director of the Humanities Division's Civic Knowledge Project at the University of Chicago.

Beastly Story Slam

4 Sessions, Tuesdays from 6 – 7:30 pm

April 22 (Heart of the Beast), May 27 (Sacrifice), June 24 (School), July 22 (Trauma)

Accomplished storyteller Judith Heineman and artist/educator Laura Shaeffer present this series of four storytelling competitions inside "The Beast." Each event will explore a theme related to the exhibition. The public is invited to bring their stories to share, and the best storyteller wins a prize!

Beastly PechaKucha

4 Sessions, Mondays from 6 – 7:30 pm

April 28, May 19, June 30, July 28

April 28 (Belly), May 19 (Sacrifice), June 30 (Repair) and July 28 (School)

Generously organized by Rachel Herman and Hannah Kushnick, these PechaKucha-style events include 6-minute-40-second spoken presentations accompanied by 20 images. The series will collect evocative, meditative, informative variations on a monthly theme from interesting Chicago minds.

Homecoming: Chicago Home Theater Festival 2014

Wednesday, April 30, 6 – 8 pm

The Chicago Home Theater Festival redefines who art is for, who art is by, and where it all takes place by transforming homes throughout Chicago into venues for original and experimental performance, cinema and interdisciplinary art. The event will include a few speakers and performances to link beastly themes to the Home Theater.

Founded in Berkeley, California in 2010 and currently spanning 3 continents and 10 countries, the International Home Theater Festival launched in Chicago in May 2013. The inaugural year featured performances in 13 homes by over 100 artists throughout the north, west and south sides of the city. Intentionally extra-institutional, the festival explores the private domain as public forum for risk-taking, radical generosity and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Learn more at www.chicagohtf.org.

Spectrum of Immersion

May 3 – 4

Part opera, part lecture, part musical improvisation, this hour-long operetta performance will explore death and redemption, collective trauma and transformation. Produced from an original score composed by Leroy Bach and adapted from essays by Preus, “Spectrum of Immersion” will feature soprano Sarah Lawrence (formerly Christine Daae in the third national tour of “Phantom of the Opera”) and Calland Metts, and will be performed by New Material with instruments created from found materials by Preus. New Material is artist John Preus, Mikel Avery (Everypeople Workshop, Black Monks of Mississippi, Josh Abrams), Leroy Bach (Wilco, Low Tide, Iron and Wine, Beth Orton, Liz Phair, Black Monks of Mississippi), and artist and builder Tadd Cowen.

Upheaval, Grief and Creativity

4 Sessions, 6 – 7:30 pm

Thursdays: May 8, May 22, June 19, July 24

Invisible Institute presents a series of four community conversations and potluck dinners led by writer Jamie Kalven, who will be joined by a different guest each session. The series will address difficult subjects that disrupt the relationship between city and citizen, including public housing, Chicago Public School closings, sexual assault, and homicide rate in relation to geography. Special guests include Audrey Petty (editor, *High-Rise Stories*), Janak Paranjape (Canter Elementary School teacher), Anne Ream, Patricia Evans (author/artist of *Lived Through This*) and others.

On Movement and Play

Saturday, May 10, 1 – 4 pm

Augusto Boal (Theater of the Oppressed) developed a unique and energetic approach to using theatre to explore the contours of community social awareness. He believed that all people could act, and that play is the key to unlocking creative states of spontaneity. In this workshop we will explore how improvisation and theatre games can free the body and voice, creating permission to experiment through performance and group dialogue to expand awareness and actualize social change within various community settings.

Bio-Graphing the Beast

Wednesdays in June, 4 – 6 pm

Stockyard Institute will host a four-part workshop series examining the organs of “The Beast” as a metaphor for our social and historical locations in Chicago. The workshop will look at the body and the city as a place of knowledge and memory, and map blueprints for creating social change. The sessions are directed towards teenage youth and are led by Lauren Lystrup, a writer and activist from the Bay Area. Her work centers on her own queer, mixed-race identity and expands to address methods of decolonization, and creating spaces where youth have access to tools and wisdom relevant to their lives and experiences. She currently works with Stockyard Institute and attends DePaul University for her Masters in Social and Cultural Foundations in Education.

I Missed You (generative distance) with Offschool

Saturday, June 14, 10 am – 1 pm

I Missed You is an ongoing project, held between Chicago and Paris, presented in several acts. Each event, characterized by the installation of the visual bridge between two places, takes different shapes depending on the discrepancies of the space. For “The Beast,” Céline Guyot, Lucrezia Russo, and Andrew Schachman will host “A Dinner in Paris/Un Déjeuner à Chicago.” Share the same meal with new friends across the ocean using technology to bridge the tear of time, distance and culture.

BBoy BBQ and Breakdance Battle

Saturday, June 17, 12 – 3 pm

The University of Hip-Hop, Connect Force dance troupe, Oakland-based street artist Desi Mundo and North Lawndale College Preparatory Charter High School welcome you to a celebration of the hip-hop arts, social justice initiatives and collective unity. A variety of Chicago hip-hop collectives will present outdoor mural painting demonstrations, a breakdancing competition, art exhibitions, workshops, and grilled delights.

Our Public Space: Who Owns It, Who Shapes It, and Who Benefits From It

June 21 – 22

This two-day conference complements current discourse about urban architecture by concentrating on public space—who controls it, who has access to it, and how its governance shapes the socio-economic environment we inhabit. The program consists of two parts, “Owning the Streets,” focusing on the stewardship of public space today, and “Reclaiming the Streets,” an interactive workshop to apply new ideas about the future of architecture and public space to a particular site in Chicago. The conference is organized by MAS Studios, Dilettante Studios and Hyde Park Art Center. Participants include Patrizia di Monte (Spain), David C. Perry (Chicago), Quilian Riano (New York), and Mimi Zeiger (Los Angeles). Our Public Space is generously supported by the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts.

“The Beast” exhibition is partially supported by The Andy Warhol Foundation, Patricia K. Swanson, Theaster Gates, and The Chuck Fund. Programming for “The Beast” is made possible in part by a grant from the Illinois Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Illinois General Assembly, and Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts.

The Jackman Goldwasser Residency at Hyde Park Art Center positions Chicago as a worldwide destination for visual art by bringing local and global artists together to work side by side, deepening engagement between local, national, and international contemporary art practices.

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Hyde Park Art Center is a unique resource that advances contemporary visual art in Chicago by connecting artists and communities in unexpected ways. As an open forum for exploring the artistic process, the Art Center fosters creativity through making, learning about, seeing, and discussing art—all under one roof. The Art Center is funded in part by: Alphawood Foundation; Andy Warhol Foundation for Visual Arts; a City Arts III grant from the City of Chicago’s Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events; Field Foundation of Illinois; Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts; Harper Court Arts Council; Harpo Foundation; Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; Illinois Humanities Council; Irving Harris Foundation; Joyce Foundation; Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; National Endowment for the Arts; National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Illinois General Assembly; Polk Bros. Foundation; David C and Sarajejan Ruttenberg Arts Foundation; Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust; and the generosity of its members and people like you.