

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PICA'S "CREATIVE EXCHANGE LAB" RESIDENCY PROGRAM ANNOUNCES 2016 SPRING ARTISTS

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PICA is pleased to announce the seven artists who will be in residence from March 19 – April 7 through the Creative Exchange Lab residency program. Twice per year, the Creative Exchange Lab convenes 7-10 local, national, and international artists who spend three weeks immersed in research, new project development and idea exchange.

Selected by PICA's curatorial team, the spring cohort of artists includes visual artist and publisher Marco Braunschweiler (Los Angeles); choreographer/dancer Ali Chahrour (Beirut, Lebanon); musician Shannon Funchess (Portland); visual artist Mark Mitchell (Seattle); writer and performance artist sidony o'neal (Portland); dramaturg Junaid Sargeddeen (Beirut, Lebanon); and choreographer/dancer Morgan Thorson (Minneapolis).

"This innovative residency program furthers PICA's long-standing commitment to facilitate exchange across disciplines and geographies, and to nurture the experiments of contemporary artists within a community setting. Past Creative Exchange Lab artists have continued to work with PICA to further develop projects and deepen artistic connections in Portland," says Angela Mattox, PICA's Artistic Director. "It's imperative for artists to have time and space for reflection and research. We can't wait to see what emerges from this dynamic and diverse group of artists."

Launched in the spring of 2015, through funding from the [Andrew W. Mellon Foundation](#), PICA's Creative Exchange Lab is a residency program that promotes artistic exchange across disciplines, geographies, and fosters the development of new works. Reflecting a field-wide need for in-depth cross-disciplinary research opportunities for artists, the Lab offers essential generative time for research and

experimentation, cross-disciplinary collaboration and dialogue between the participating local, national, and international artists.

ABOUT PORTLAND INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART (PICA):

Portland Institute for Contemporary Art acknowledges and advances new developments in contemporary art, fostering the explorations of artists and audiences. Since 1995, PICA has championed the practice of contemporary artists from around the world, driving vital conversations about the art and issues of today. PICA presents artists from visual and performance backgrounds and embraces those individuals who exist at the borders of genres and ideas. Through artist residencies and exhibitions, lectures and workshops, and the annual Time-Based Art Festival, PICA constructs a broad platform for contemporary art.

The logo for PICA, consisting of the letters 'PICA' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letters are positioned above a horizontal yellow bar that is slightly wider than the text.

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Creative Exchange Lab Spring 2016 Artists

Marco Kane Braunschweiler (Los Angeles, CA) is a Swiss-American artist and publisher. He has presented programs at The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; the Art Institute of Chicago; and White Flag Projects, St. Louis. He has exhibited at the Swiss Institute, New York; 356 Mission, Los Angeles; Human Resources, Los Angeles; the Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia; and The Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; among others.

Ali Chahrour (Beirut, Lebanon) is a choreographer, dancer, and graduate of the theatre department at The Lebanese University. Influenced by techniques from several European countries, he studies contemporary dance in the Arab world and movement that is related to society's memory and its local circumstances that contribute to creating an identity for contemporary dance, whose techniques and problematics are inspired by its surroundings and history. His work examines the relationship between dancing and the body, and the religion and the sacred, relying on the Islamic and Shiite religious rituals and practices in the Arab world.

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Shannon Funchess (Portland, OR) is the founder, vocalist, producer and multi-instrumentalist of Brooklyn-based electronic group LIGHT ASYLUM. Funchess' vocal prowess has been sought after for many collaborations with acts such as TV on the Radio, LCD Soundsystem, and The Knife. Funchess toured as a member of The Knife in 2014, and participated in a Knight Foundation-funded residency in Detroit Michigan in 2015, spearheaded by electronic husband and wife duo ADULT. Funchess is currently producing and recording a much anticipated LIGHT ASYLUM sophomore release, enlivening a 20 year long DJ career and performing new solo material.

Mark Mitchell (Seattle, WA) is an artist who speaks to social issues through sculpture. His contributions to the cultural community bridge a number of disciplines, including art, music, theater, fashion, activism, and education. Mark was recently artist-in-residence at The New Foundation Seattle where he continued to develop his new group of sculptures, Burial 2, concerning racism and mass incarceration.

sidony o'neal (Portland, OR) is a writer, performance artist, and dramaturg. Her work is interdisciplinary— often synthesizing text, movement, installation, as well as noise, textiles, and olfactory components. sidony has presented work in the US, Canada, and Nigeria. She has performed as a member of DEAD THOROUGHbred, future death agency, and DELICTO. She is the translator of Prognosis: Descarga Poetica Decolonial (Quilomboarte 2014) and author of f a c e b o w l (THE MINI CHAPBOOK PRESS 2014).

Junaid Sarieedeen (Beirut, Lebanon) His artistic research is oriented towards focusing on the position of the artwork within the time and space contexts of events. “Lorca” (2005), the intrusive event in the streets of Beirut, followed by the installation performance “ish ibka smu sud jud...” (2006) both carried the beginning of this artistic question for him. A question which started developing after he took part in establishing Zoukak Theatre Company in 2006 and later finishing his BA in Philosophy at the Lebanese university in 2008; which led him to consider the artwork as a political proposition.

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Morgan Thorson (Minneapolis, MN) is a dance-maker. Morgan’s recent work addresses how the body shapes time; and how time influences our perception and expression of the body in spaces where labor, coordination, identity, movement and image can flourish and decay as well as redefine our notion of dance, sexuality, belonging and life. Morgan has received support from The Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography (2009, 2011 and 2015), and The National Dance Project (2008, 2012, and 2015). She is a United States Artist (2012), Guggenheim (2010), and McKnight (2002, 2009) Fellow and has received multiple Sage Awards for Outstanding Choreography. Currently, she is a Creative Campus Fellow at Wesleyan University.