



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Tenth public art bus unveiled in downtown Des Moines

The Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation is proud to partner with the Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority (DART), and local performing artists, including poet Daron Richardson, Jordan Gregory dancers and Hip Hop musician MarKaus, to unveil the tenth art bus. The Public Art Foundation commissioned Mitchell Squire, an artist and professor of architecture at Iowa State University, to create the new art bus wrap, entitled "Multiple Black". The project is part of the Public Art Foundation's Project Spaces initiative, which places compelling, contemporary works of art in highly accessible and visible public spaces. The public can view the bus as it travels on DART bus routes throughout Greater Des Moines.

Unveiling



Beginning at 1 p.m. today, representatives of the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation and DART along with local performing artists and dancers revealed the new art bus with an event at Hansen Triangle. During the program, the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation and Squire presented \$500 awards to Art Force Iowa, CFUM (Children Family Urban Movement) and Urban Dreams. They will use the funds to purchase bus passes, reducing the transportation barrier for youth and families in central Iowa.

Then, DART staff revealed the bus following a poetry reading by Daron Richardson. The Jordan Gregory Dancers performed immediately after the bus was unveiled, and the celebration concluded with an electrifying performance by MarKaus. Video and photos for media use are available upon request.

"We wanted the unveiling of the tenth bus in this series to be a total artistic experience," said M. Jessica Rowe, director of the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation. "We're excited that this bus will enrich the lives of people across the region as it travels on routes throughout DART's network. But, we also want to recognize that through the inclusion of bus passes to Art Force Iowa, CFUM (Children Family Urban Movement) and Urban Dreams, this art bus will also have a positive impact in the lives of children and adults that use these organization's services every day."

Artist's Influence

Mitchell Squire describes his art for "Multiple Black" as a celebration, "[The design] illustrates a design made from an assemblage and collage of original photographs. The images include a base layer of dark tightly curled strands of hair combined with gold jewelry and pearls on the left side, and "parts" in the hair and freshly manicured and adorned nails on the right side of the bus. This is a celebration of the artistry and style fully expressed in multiple ways in the black community."

Squire is an artist and educator whose practice encompasses architecture, visual art, and the study of material culture. He has mounted solo exhibitions at CUE Art Foundation (NYC), White Cube (London), Bemis Center for Contemporary Art / Carver Bank (Omaha), and the Des Moines Art Center, as well as many academic institutions. His work has appeared in signature group exhibitions in Des Moines, and nationally at Richard Gray Gallery (Chicago), Lesley Heller Gallery (New York), Sanitary Tortilla Factory (Albuquerque). He has completed residencies at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture (Maine), Ox-Bow School of Art and Artists' Residency (Michigan), Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity (Alberta, Canada), and Cannonball (Miami), and has also been an invited participant in educational programs at Museum of Modern Art (NY), New Museum (NY), Pérez Art Museum Miami, and La Biennale Architettura di Venezia 2014. His works appear in public and private collections worldwide, including the permanent collections of the Des Moines Art Center and the Minneapolis Institute of Art. A nationally recognized educator in the field of architecture, Squire currently holds the position of Professor of Architecture at Iowa State University, where he took both B.Arch and M.Arch degrees. He twice received honors for his teaching from the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA), in 2005 and 2009, and among his published works are the poetic narrative "Paris Done Burnt!" in *White Papers, Black Marks: Architecture, Race, and Culture* (Athlone) and the object collection "cultureWARE: Implements of Desire; or EAT THIS!" in *Eating Architecture* (MIT). He has been a visiting professor at the University of California Berkeley (2012 and 2015), the University of Michigan (2009), and the University of Minnesota (2000), and has served a 3-year term as External Examiner at the Graduate School of Architecture at University of Johannesburg, South Africa (2014-2016). He has lectured widely in the US and abroad. His work is currently on view at the Minneapolis Institute of Art for the exhibition "Growing the Collection: Drawings and Collage, 1960 to Now" (Dec 22, 2018 – Sept 1, 2019).

Art Bus Series Details

The bus wrap project began with an open call, which generated a response from 45 artists across 21 states. A team of art professionals reviewed more than 325 images and finalists were commissioned to create concept proposals. This is the tenth in a series of DART buses that have been wrapped with unique and colorful compositions. Previous art buses included designs by artists Alex Brown (November 2014), Jay Vigon (June 2015), Susan Chrysler White (March 2016), Larassa Kabel (June 2016), Brent Holland (October 2016), Jordan Weber (June 2017), Benjamin Gardner (December 2017), Nick Goettling (June 2018) and Marianne Fairbanks (March 2019).

ABOUT THE GREATER DES MOINES PUBLIC ART FOUNDATION

The Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation, established in 2004, recognizes that art belongs not just in galleries and museums, but also in streetscapes, parks, buildings and infrastructures of a thriving community. Dedicated to envisioning, developing, advancing and promoting public art projects, the Public Art Foundation collaborates with local entities and artists to engage, inspire and enrich the lives of residents

and visitors to the community. The goal is to increase awareness of our community as a world-class destination for public art. For more information about the Public Art Foundation, visit www.dsmpublicartfoundation.org.

ABOUT DART

The Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority (DART) is the public transportation provider in and around Polk County. DART operates a family of transportation services that connects thousands of people every day to jobs, school, medical appointments, entertainment and more. For more information about DART services, schedules, route changes, or directions to the nearest DART stop, visit the website at ridedart.com or call 515-283-8100.

PHOTO CAPTION: Representatives of the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation and DART pose with artist Mitchell Squire in front of the tenth art bus, Multiple Black.

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