



Media Contacts:

Dejha Carrington, National YoungArts Foundation
dcarrington@youngarts.org / 305-377-1140

Julia An, Polskin Arts & Communications Counselors
julia.an@finnpartners.com / 212-715-1694

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

**NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION CELEBRATES
THIRD ANNUAL YOUNGARTS AWARENESS DAY
WITH ALUMNI EXHIBITION CURATED BY ROBERT CHAMBERS**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2016

6:00 PM Free Exhibition Opening Reception

On View in the YoungArts Gallery Until November 21

WHAT: The [National YoungArts Foundation](#) (YoungArts) will kick off its 2017 season on **Tuesday, September 27**, with the third annual **YoungArts Awareness Day** campaign, which promotes the arts as a viable and rewarding career path, celebrates the outstanding achievements of YoungArts alumni, and encourages emerging artists [to apply to the organization's 2017 program](#).

This year's festivities include ***MouthWater***, a special exhibition curated by renowned sculptor and YoungArts master teacher **Robert Chambers**, featuring work by an extraordinary cross-section of visual arts, design and photography alumni. Participants include established artists such as **Naomi Fisher** (1994 Winner in Visual Arts) and **Lee Heinemann** (2011 Winner in Visual Arts and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts), as well as recent YoungArts winners and emerging talent, including **Sebastian Ruiz** (2014 Winner in Visual Arts), **Mikayla Brown** (2015 Winner in Visual Arts) and **Nadia Wolff** (2016 Winner in Design, Visual Arts and a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts), among others.

Opening with a free, public reception on YoungArts Awareness Day and on view in the campus gallery through November 21, 2016, the exhibition offers the public a unique opportunity to experience longstanding artistic practices alongside a new wave of creative expression, and highlights YoungArts' role as a platform for dynamic dialogue between artists across generations.

[YoungArts Awareness Day](#) underscores the impact the organization has had on artists ages 15 to 18 to achieve their goals and build a strong professional network. Taking place on the heels of National Arts in Education Week, the day serves as a platform for acclaimed YoungArts alumni to inspire young artists to apply to become a part of the next class of YoungArts Winners by **October 14, 2016** at www.youngarts.org/apply.

Other YoungArts Awareness Day celebrations include an interdisciplinary performance directed by **Caleb Teicher** (2011 Winner in Dance) at **Millennium Stage** at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. Five emerging artists, all YoungArts alumni, will present **A Very Brief History of the United States**—a whirlwind experience of our nation’s watershed moments, from the Revolutionary War, to the birth of jazz, to the Civil Rights Movement and modern politics. Together, these artists will work across artistic mediums to celebrate the power of improvisation, creativity and collaboration.

YoungArts also encourages alumni, master teachers and the public to share how the arts have impacted their lives with the hashtag **#MyArtStory**.

WHO: **Robert Chambers**, sculptor and YoungArts master teacher (curator)

**YoungArts alumni,
from the organization’s founding year through to the present:**

Eric Clarke Rhein | 1980

Naomi Fisher | 1994

Cheryl Megan Smith | 2007

Lee Heinemann | 2011

Paloma Izquierdo | 2014

Sebastian Ruiz | 2014

Anais Perez | 2015

Mark Fleuridor | 2015

Ryan Yale | 2015

Jackson McGrath | 2015

Paloma Valencia | 2015

Mikayla Brown | 2015

Rachel London | 2016

Leonardo Bacan | 2016

Terri Ogwulumba | 2016

Cornelius Tulloch | 2016

Nadia Wolff | 2016

Additional participants to be confirmed.

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

**WHEN,
WHERE &
TICKETS:** ***MouthWater: A Multigenerational Exhibition of Alumni Work***
YoungArts Gallery
2100 Biscayne Blvd Miami, FL 33137

Opening reception Tuesday, September 27, 2016 at 6:00 pm

Live DJ & Drinks

Free with registration at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mouthwater-curated-by-robert-chambers-tickets-27054696325>

Exhibition on view from September 27 through November 21, 2016

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

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

MORE INFO: youngarts.org/youngarts-awareness-day

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 from a pool of more than an average of 11,000 applications (in 2015, the organization received a record-breaking number of more than 12,000 applications), 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, Neil Patrick Harris, 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-winning filmmaker Doug Blush.

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](#).