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Hermitage Launches New Programmatic Series in Collaboration with Sarasota Art Museum

The Hermitage will bring nationally and internationally celebrated visual and performing artists to Sarasota Art Museum’s beautiful location near the heart of downtown Sarasota, beginning with “Citizen Arts: Music, Theater, and Dance,” an interdisciplinary conversation on July 22 at 6:30pm featuring Hermitage Fellows Marcos Balter, Sam Max, and Amanda Cantrell Roche.

June 21, 2022 (Sarasota County, Florida) — The Hermitage Artist Retreat is pleased to announce the launch of a new series of programs presented in partnership with Sarasota Art Museum. As part of their residency, nationally renowned artists are invited to the Hermitage’s historic beachfront campus and offer free community programs to enthusiastic arts audiences throughout Sarasota County and the greater Gulf Coast region. As the Hermitage continues to expand its programs and events, this new partnership with Sarasota’s contemporary art museum offers another centrally located outdoor venue and a mission-aligned institution to introduce some of the artists who come to discover Sarasota through their Hermitage Fellowships. The Hermitage will continue to present free community programs with The John & Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Art Center Sarasota, and other leading arts, cultural, and educational institutions throughout the region.

Over the past two seasons, the Hermitage has dramatically increased its programmatic offerings and introduced world-class artists to dozens of venues throughout the region with over 100 live, outdoor community programs.

“We are excited to be partnering with Sarasota Art Museum as we introduce new works-in-process from nationally and internationally renowned visual and performing artists to the members of our community,” said Hermitage Artistic Director and CEO **Andy Sandberg**. “We have some further initiatives in the works with SAM, and we look forward to sharing more news about this in the coming months!”

“The Hermitage brings some truly extraordinary talents to Sarasota, and we look forward to hosting these brilliant artists for programs at Sarasota Art Museum,” adds Sarasota Art Museum’s Executive Director **Virginia Shearer**. “Our two organizations share a global perspective as we aspire to introduce our community to leading contemporary artists from around the world.”

The first Hermitage artist program in this collaboration with Sarasota Art Museum is scheduled for **Friday, July 22, 2022 at 6:30pm**, live and outdoors in the museum’s Klein Plaza. “**Citizen Arts: Music, Theater, and Dance**” features an interdisciplinary discussion on art in public spaces. The conversation will feature Brazilian-born composer **Marcos Balter**, theater-maker **Sam Max**, and dance educator **Amanda Cantrell Roche**. Future programs with Sarasota Art Museum will be announced at a later date. [See below for complete program details and artist bios.](#)

Hermitage programs like these are free and open to the public with a \$5/person registration fee. Most Hermitage programs are presented at outdoor venues throughout Sarasota County as part of the Hermitage’s partnerships with local organizations. Due to capacity limitations and social distancing, **registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org**.

The Hermitage hosts artists on its Gulf Coast Manasota Key campus for multi-week residencies, where diverse and accomplished artists from around the world and across multiple disciplines create and develop new works of theater, music, visual art, literature, dance, and more. As part of their residencies, Hermitage Fellows participate in free community programs, offering audiences in the region a unique opportunity to engage with some of the world’s leading artists and to get an authentic “sneak peek” into extraordinary projects and artistic minds before their works go on to major theaters, galleries, concert halls, and museums around the world. These free and innovative programs include performances, lectures, readings, interactive experiences, open

studios, school programs, teacher workshops, and more, serving thousands in our community each year. The Hermitage is the only major arts organization in Florida's Gulf Coast region exclusively committed to supporting the development and creation of new work across all artistic disciplines.

*For more information about the Hermitage or upcoming programs, visit **HermitageArtistRetreat.org**.*

The newly and previously announced program descriptions are as follows:

- **PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED: “2022 Hermitage STARS,”** Friday July 15 at 2pm, presented in partnership with Boys and Girls Clubs of Sarasota and DeSoto Counties. Five of Florida's best and brightest arts educators are coming to the Hermitage Artist Retreat to focus on their own creative practice. Hailing from across the state, their artistic disciplines range as widely as their geographic homes with three focused on different fields of visual art including ceramics, collage, and painting, a musician and band leader, and for the first-time-ever, a dance instructor. These five artists will collaborate to present a hands-on 'arts buffet' with a sampling from each of their artistic practices on offer for the Sarasota community. **Due to capacity limitations and safety protocols, registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org. (\$5/person registration fee). Hermitage Great Lawn, 6660 Manasota Key Road, Englewood, Florida 34223.**
- **NEW: “Citizen Arts: Music, Theater, and Dance,”** Friday, July 22 at 6:30pm, presented in partnership with Sarasota Art Museum. Art exists not only in the purpose built-spaces of theaters, museums, and concert halls, but also throughout our lives. In this interdisciplinary program, we hear from three accomplished artists in three different mediums sharing insight and discussing how their work interacts with the public. Brazilian-born composer **Marcos Balter**'s compositions have been described by *The New York Times* as “utterly lovely” in addition to having a focus on the hyper-dramatization of the performed work; theater-maker **Sam Max**'s work center's the queer experience in poetic spaces; and dancer/teaching artist **Amanda Cantrell Roche** combines her skill in dance with a history in journalism and a passion for social justice. **Registration is required at HermitageArtistRetreat.org (\$5/person registration fee). Sarasota Art Museum, 1001 South Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, Florida 34236.**

About the Hermitage Artist Retreat:

The Hermitage is a non-profit artist retreat located in Manasota Key, Florida, inviting accomplished artists across multiple disciplines for residencies on its beachfront campus, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Hermitage artists are invited to interact with the local community, reaching thousands of Gulf Coast residents and visitors each year with unique and inspiring programs. Hermitage Fellows have included 14 Pulitzer Prize winners, Poets Laureate, MacArthur 'Genius' Fellows, and multiple Tony, Emmy, Grammy, Oscar winners and nominees. Works created at this beachside retreat by a diverse group of Hermitage alumni have gone on to renowned theaters, concert halls, and galleries throughout the world. Each year, the Hermitage awards the \$30,000 Hermitage Greenfield Prize for a new work of art, the newly announced \$35,000 Hermitage Major Theater Award for an original theater commission, and the Aspen Music Festival's Hermitage Prize in Composition.

For more information, visit HermitageArtistRetreat.org.

The Hermitage is supported by:

Hermitage programs are supported, in part, by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts; by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax Revenues; and by The State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture (Section 286.25 Florida Statutes), as well as the Gulf Coast Community Foundation, Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation, and the Community Foundation of Sarasota County.

About Sarasota Art Museum:

As a platform for education, exposure and experimentation, Sarasota Art Museum inspires new ideas and new ways of being through an endless rotation of transformative, relevant, and pioneering exhibitions and programs designed to elevate and empower all by cultivating discerning visual thinkers and ethical citizens. As the region's first museum dedicated to contemporary art, the Museum offers visitors a place to see thought-provoking, boundary-pushing exhibitions and participate in dynamic educational programming with global thought leaders. The facility is a resource for learning about global art discourse and deepening appreciation for 20th and 21st century art and artists through exhibition gallery spaces, an auditorium, an outdoor sculpture garden, a bistro, retail store, and extensive grounds for performance, happenings, sculpture, site-specific and site-responsive installations, movement classes, and gatherings.

COMPLETE ARTIST BIOS:

Marcos Balter

Marcos Balter, born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, is a Hermitage Fellow who has been praised by *The Chicago Tribune* as "minutely crafted" and "utterly lovely," by *The New York Times* as "whimsical" and "surreal," and by *The Washington Post* as "dark and deeply poetic." His musical compositions are at once emotionally visceral and intellectually complex, primarily rooted in experimental manipulations of timbre and hyper-dramatization of live performance. Recent performances include a Miller Theater Composer Portrait and appearances at Carnegie Hall, Köln Philharmonie, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Wigmore Hall,

ArtLab at Harvard University, Lincoln Center, Walt Disney Hall, Teatro Amazonas, Sala São Paulo, Park Avenue Armory, Teatro de Madrid, Bâtiment de Forces Motrices de Genève, and the Museum of Contemporary Art of Chicago. Recent festival appearances include those at Tanglewood Contemporary Music Festival, Ecstatic Music Festival, Acht Brücken, Aldeburgh Music Festival, Aspen, Frankfurter Gesellschaft für Neue Musik, Darmstadt Ferienkurse, and Banff Music Festival.

Sam Max

Sam Max (they/their) is a writer, director, producer, and returning Hermitage Fellow. Their work is known for centering queer characters in “poetic spaces where death and dreams converge, making otherworldly encounters possible” (Suhrkamp). They are a recipient of the 2021 Lotos Foundation Prize in the Arts and Sciences, a winner of the 2019 Chesley-Bumbalo Playwriting Award, a resident playwright of New Dramatists, and a member writer of Suhrkamp Theater Verlag publishing house in Berlin. Their work includes *Coop* (Paradise Factory in the East Village, Theaterreffen in Berlin, Goethe-Institut China in Beijing), *Pidor and the Wolf* (Finalist: O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, Honorable Mention: The Relentless Award), and performance art concert *Twin Size Beds* (Selection: Under the Radar Festival, Selection: Joe's Pub, Excerpt: Museum of Sex). They have developed their work as a member of The Public Theater's Devised Theater Working Group and Pipeline Theatre Company's PlayLab, and have received additional residencies and support from National Sawdust, The Mastheads, Cutting Ball Theater, and the Foundation for Contemporary Arts. SamSpaceMax.com

Amanda Cantrell Roche

Hermitage Fellow Amanda Cantrell Roche divides her time between writing, dance, volunteering, and working as a teaching artist. She has been a dance teaching artist for Tennessee Performing Arts Center's education program since 2000, conducting aesthetic education residencies for students of all ages. Independently and in collaboration with a team of lead teaching artists, she designs and facilitates professional development for teachers and other teaching artists. Amanda has collaborated as an organizer, choreographer, or teaching artist with organizations such as Global Education Center, Nashville CARES, Poverty & the Arts, and Vanderbilt University. A mother of two, she also birthed and has nurtured Blue Moves Modern Dance Company since 1989 with co-founder Lee Anne Carmack. Her choreography often blends her background in journalism with her passion for social justice and telling stories through movement and recorded words. She has offered workshops at The Estuary, abrasiveMedia, Ha.Le' Mind and Body, and Gilda's Club, and is a regular workshop facilitator at Art & Soul Studio. Her alchemy is most powerful when she combines a trilogy of her deepest passions: dance, writing, and social justice. AmandaRoche.com

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