

Guild Hall

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GUILD HALL ANNOUNCES EXHIBITION BY LEO VILLAREAL

***Celestial Garden* will open on August 5 in the newly renovated Marks Family Gallery South.**



Celestial Garden, 2023, (detail) LEDs, stainless steel, electrical hardware and custom software, 340 x 126" (864 x 320 cm).

East Hampton, NY (July 19, 2023)— Guild Hall (158 Main Street, East Hampton, NY) announces a new exhibition by pioneering American artist **Leo Villareal** (b.1967), opening on August 5th in the newly renovated Marks Family Gallery South featuring the premiere of Villareal's newest light sculpture, ***Celestial Garden***. Over the past 30 years, Villareal has created sequenced light artworks for museums and public spaces around the globe, transforming iconic city landmarks such as Westminster Bridge in London, the Bay Bridge in San Francisco, the Bleecker Street Subway Station, and the façade of the Brooklyn Academy of Music with his dynamic installations. The exhibition will be on view until October 15, 2023.

Villareal utilizes computer-generated algorithms to create mesmerizing, site-specific light artworks on a grand scale. Using custom computer software and complex coding, the artist designs unique, elemental frameworks that result in generative moving and evolving light forms.

Andrea Grover, Executive Director of Guild Hall, said, "We are thrilled to present Leo Villareal's *Celestial Garden* in Guild Hall's newly renovated Marks Family Gallery South. Villareal's visionary techniques, combining experiential technology and light art, are aligned with Guild Hall's mission to bring leading contemporary art to East Hampton. We are excited to share Leo's immersive exhibition with our visitors in our new and improved gallery."

Celestial Garden is a monumental light sculpture, over 10 feet tall and 28 feet wide, composed of an array of LED lights diffused through vinyl. Visitors will be invited to sit on zero-gravity chairs designed by the artist to experience the artwork. The abstract composition of moving images is inspired by intricate structures and systems found in nature. Villareal's vibrant, hypnotic installation will envelop viewers in a dynamic interplay of light and sound. To further the immersive experience, the exhibition will be accompanied by an ambient, tonal soundscape made by Villareal of composed elements played back in random order in sync with the visuals.

Director of Visual Arts, Melanie Crader, further stated, "Villareal's monumental, mural-sized light sculpture references the history of mark-making and painting, and will resonate with our visitors as artists have always been attracted to the East End of Long Island for its stunning natural light properties."

"I am honored to have an opportunity to exhibit my latest work, *Celestial Garden*, at Guild Hall," said Villareal. "I very much appreciate Guild Hall's history, which embraces a long-term interdisciplinary program as well as civically engaged interactions with the community. As a resident of Orient, NY, I am inspired by the deep creative legacy of arts on Long Island and am happy to be part of this legacy."

Leo Villareal: Celestial Garden will be on view in Guild Hall's Marks Family Gallery South from August 5 through October 15, 2023. Gallery hours are Thursday to Sunday, 12-5 PM through Labor Day, and Friday to Monday, 12-5 PM after September 4. Gallery admission is free.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Leo Villareal is an artist based in New York City and the North Fork of Long Island. He is represented by Pace Gallery and exhibits his work nationally and internationally. His work is in the permanent collections of museums, including the Buffalo AKG Art Museum, Buffalo, NY; The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; Naoshima Contemporary Art Museum, Kagawa, Japan; and the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. In addition to being represented in museum collections worldwide, Villareal also creates permanent, site-specific works, including *Fountain (KCI)*, Kansas City International Airport, Kansas City, MO; *Light Matrix (Houston)*, The University of Houston, TX; *Buckyball*, the Exploratorium, San Francisco, California; *Light Matrix (MIT)*, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts; *Volume (Renwick)*, Renwick Gallery at the Smithsonian, Washington, D.C.; *Radiant Pathway*, Rice University, Houston, Texas; *Cosmos*, Johnson Museum, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY; *Multiverse*, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; *Diagonal Grid*, Borusan Center for Culture and Arts, Istanbul, Turkey; *Stars*, The Brooklyn Academy of Music, Brooklyn; and *Hive (Bleecker Street)*, for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority at the Bleecker Street subway station in Manhattan, to name a few. In 2013, Villareal inaugurated *The Bay Lights*, a monumental 1.8-mile installation of 25,000 white LED lights on San Francisco's Bay Bridge. In 2021, Villareal completed *Illuminated River*, which unites 9 bridges in central London into a single, monumental work of public art.

<http://villareal.net/>

SPONSORS

Lead Sponsors: Bloomberg Philanthropies, Estrellita and Daniel Brodsky, Amanda and Donald Mullen, Pace Gallery, and an Anonymous Donor

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Free gallery admission is sponsored, in part, by Landscape Details.

ABOUT GUILD HALL

Guild Hall is the cultural heart of the East End: a museum, performing arts, and education center, founded in 1931. We invite everyone to experience the endless possibilities of the arts: to open minds to what art can be; inspire creativity and conversation; and have fun.

Guild Hall has served four generations and introduced audiences to the most storied artists and performers of our time. Now as we approach our centennial, we have embarked on a state-of-the-art renovation to match the caliber of our artistry for twenty-first-century audiences. The facility-wide Capital Improvements Project & Campaign includes top-of-the-line physical and technological enhancements to better deliver on our mission as an artist-driven, interdisciplinary institution.

For more information about Guild Hall, please visit GuildHall.org.
[@GUILD_HALL](https://www.instagram.com/guild_hall) #GUILDHALL

The full schedule of programs and events can be found at guildhall.org/events.

Press Inquiries

FITZ & CO / Elizabeth McNamara / emcnamara@fitzandco.com / 917-432-4765

FITZ & CO / Sarah St. Amand / sstamand@fitzandco.com / 978-844-4086

GUILD HALL / Amy Kirwin / akirwin@guildhall.org / 917-916-0664