

# Guild Hall

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Inquiries

FITZ & CO / Elizabeth McNamara / [emcnamara@fitzandco.com](mailto:emcnamara@fitzandco.com) / 917-432-4765

GUILD HALL / Amy Kirwin / [akirwin@guildhall.org](mailto:akirwin@guildhall.org) / 917-916-0664

Approved images for press:

<https://adobe.ly/44nBQ6E>

## GUILD HALL CELEBRATES GRAND REOPENING WITH ROBUST SEASON OF PROGRAMMING



Guild Hall of East Hampton, 2023. Photo: Brondo for Guild Hall

**East Hampton, NY (September 5, 2023)**— Guild Hall of East Hampton celebrated its grand reopening on July 2<sup>nd</sup> following the completion of a year-long, full-scale renovation, the first phase of its comprehensive improvements due for completion in 2024. The beloved East End institution marked its return with a robust summer season of programming from Benefits to Live Performances, Talks, and Gallery Shows.



Renée Cox: *A Proof of Being* installation view. Image courtesy of Guild Hall. Photo: Gary Mamay

**Guild Hall's renewed facility was inaugurated with a comprehensive solo exhibition of Jamaican-American artist Renée Cox (b. 1960) in its Marks Family Gallery North. *Renée Cox: A Proof of Being***, which has been extended through September 18, presents a selection of the artist's best-known photographs since 1992. The exhibition traces the evolution of Cox's practice through a series of performative self-portraits, demonstrating the ways in which she has reclaimed art historical themes to explore notions of womanhood, beauty, and agency. On view are photographs from some of the artist's

most recognizable bodies of work, including her groundbreaking *Yo Mama* series (1992–94) and her monumental photograph *The Signing* (2017). *A Proof of Being* also marks the New York premiere of a recent work, the immersive video installation *Soul Culture* (2022).



Leo Villareal, *Celestial Garden*, 2023. LEDs, custom software, electrical hardware, steel, vinyl, audio. 340 x 126 inches (864 x 320 cm).  
Image courtesy of Guild Hall, the artist, and Pace Gallery. Celestial Garden © Leo Villareal. Photo: Gary Mamay

**Leo Villareal: *Celestial Garden***, on view through October 16, is a monumental light sculpture composed of an array of LEDs diffused through a vinyl membrane and accompanied by a soundscape and artist-designed furniture. Villareal utilizes custom software to orchestrate compositions of perpetually evolving abstract forms inspired by the intricate patterns found in nature. The artist grew up along the US-Mexico border, and his early interest in Mexican muralism is reflected in the historical references to mark-making in his large-scale works. Although his immersive light installations employ sophisticated technology to generate random sequences that recombine in infinite variations, his focus is on reducing systems to their essence—simple elements such as pixels or the zeros and ones of binary code—to better understand the underlying structures and rules that govern their workings.

**New York Times food & wine writer Florence Fabricant** returned for the 11<sup>th</sup> season of *Stirring the Pot*, visiting offsite destinations for the second summer. The program included Tequila & Tacos at Estia's Little Kitchen with Chef Colin Ambrose and *NY Times* drinks expert Robert Simonson, a celebration of 35 years of Nick & Toni's, an oyster-shucking class with Seamore's at Rosie's Amagansett, and a return to Guild Hall for a morning chat with Chef Jarrod Huth of Canoe Place Inn & Cottage, in partnership with De Gustibus Cooking School.



Joo Won Ahn and Chloe Misseldine, *Hamptons Dance Project V*, 2023. Photo: Jessica Dalene, courtesy of Guild Hall

**Jose Sebastian and Hamptons Dance Project (HDP)** returned for their fifth summer season in a co-presentation with Guild Hall. Set on a stunning 20-acre farm overlooking Gardiner's Bay, this annual

event honors the East End's legacy as a creative hotbed and artistic haven to promote dance as a pillar of the area's rich cultural landscape. Hamptons Dance Project Season V premiered "Glow By Glow" by the choreographer **Jorma Elo**, commissioned by the Guild Hall William P. Rayner Artist-in-Residence program.

**The Guild Hall & Bel Canto Boot Camp Resident Artist Series** is a collaboration between Guild Hall of East Hampton and Bel Canto Boot Camp (BCBC) co-founders, Rachelle Jonck and Derrick Goff, who presented an intimate recital of *bel canto* repertoire with **Cuban-American soprano Lisette Oropesa**. The unique highlight of the program showcased several duets and ensembles featuring Oropesa and the 2023 Guild Hall & Bel Canto Boot Camp Resident Artists. The performance concluded Oropesa's week in residence at Guild Hall, during which she lead private coachings and a public masterclass with resident artists.

On Thursday, August 24, writer and architecture critic **Paul Goldberger** was joined by architect **Charles Renfro**, partner, Diller Scofidio + Renfro, in the newly renovated Furman Garden for an illustrated conversation on the subject of Goldberger's newest book, *Blue Dream and the Legacy of Modernism in the Hamptons*. Attendees included East Hampton's Blue Dream House homeowners, members of the design and building team, DS+R partner Elizabeth Diller, and book publisher Mary DelMonico.

Over the course of the evening on Saturday, September 2, more than 250 people descended upon the Furman Garden for an end-of-summer Silent Disco Dance Party featuring guest DJs Carlos Lama, artist Almond Zigmund, and Guild Hall's Amy Kirwin. Guests grooved to tunes from the 70s to today, broadcast over wireless headphones for a raucously quiet night of fun.

The full 2023 Summer Program Guide can be found [here](#).  
Information on the upcoming fall programming can be found [here](#).

---

## 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](https://www.guildhall.org).  
[@GUILD\\_HALL](#) #GUILDHALL

The full schedule of programs and events can be found at [guildhall.org/events](https://www.guildhall.org/events).