



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **PHOENIX INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART (phICA) TO PRESENT 9 EXHIBITS IN *ONLOADED 4* SERIES IN ROOSEVELT ROW REPURPOSED SHIPPING CONTAINERS DURING 2016-2017, CONTINUE SUCCESSFUL EMERGING CURATOR INITIATIVE, AND NEW COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP WITH RHETORICAL GALLERIES**

(Phoenix, AZ USA)— phICA continues its ***Onloaded 4*** programming for the 2016-2017 season (October, 2016 – May, 2017) in repurposed shipping containers on Roosevelt Row in Downtown Phoenix. It is continuing its innovative and strongly acclaimed ***Emerging Curator Initiative*** with 5 curators planning 5 exhibitions from concept through de-installation. The Initiative, envisioned by Ted Decker, provides actual curatorial experience for recent Art History graduates from ASU and artists from the community who have expressed an interest in gaining this knowledge. The 7 solo ***Onloaded 4*** exhibitions, curated by phICA co-founder and director/curator Ted G. Decker, showcase art work by emerging Phoenix-based artists and Arizona, national, and international artists. Each of the artists, in tandem with the curator, must decide how to install and utilize space design to show art work to large crowd in a non-conventional venue. The dimensions of each container are approximately 18 feet deep x 7.5 feet wide x 8 feet high (5.49 x 2.29 x 2.44 meters). During the 2015-16 Season, phICA presented 57 artists in 29 exhibitions, in 6 venues, in 3 cities, and in 2 countries.

Dovetailing on a Summer 2016 collaboration with Rhetorical Galleries for exhibitions in 3 containers, phICA is launching a community partnership with Nic Wiesinger and Rhetorical Galleries during the 2016-17 Season. Rhetorical Galleries will program one of the 3 phICA containers through May, 2017. The intended outcome is to present an even more wide-ranging presentation of visual art for the community and expand phICA's growing reach through partnerships with Roosevelt Row Community Development Corporation, *The Arts Beacon*, Centro Internacional de las Artes, A.C., Tijuana, Mexico, and Ayuntamiento de Tijuana/IMAC.

In January 2014, phICA launched the first of an innovative series of curated “pop-up” solo exhibitions in repurposed cargo containers, which were purchased by Roosevelt Row CDC and converted into white “cube”, wood floored gallery spaces. phICA expanded its programming during the 2015-16 and 2016-17 based on the success of the exhibitions measured in critical review, observed viewer appreciation (estimated at 75,000+ people who attended Phoenix First and Third Friday events and who visited the phICA website from October, 2014 through mid-June, 2015), and the need for bringing art to where viewers gather. In December, 2014, the prestigious James Irvine Foundation cited phICA/ Roosevelt Row pop-up galleries in repurposed shipping containers as **one of 10 organizations** in the United States using “inspiring ways in utilizing new spaces to reach new audiences”.

Exhibition artists have been selected on the merit of their work, commitments to their professional artist careers, and the catalytic effect that phICA may have in bolstering careers through exposure of their art to a broader public. Artists from San Diego and Lisbon, Portugal will travel to Phoenix to participate in a phICA **Immersive Artist Residency**. They will speak with Phoenix area creatives, university/college and high school students, visit regional cultural institutions, and “must-see” destinations like Sedona and the Grand Canyon. Previous successful residencies include Phoenix-based visual artist Sue Chenoweth in Rio de Janeiro, and São Paulo-based Felipe Goes and Wanderson Alves in Phoenix during the 2014-15 Season, and 3 international artists in residence from Brazil, Iran, and Mexico during the 2015-16 Season. During the next two seasons, the focus of phICA's residency programming will shift to sending Phoenix-based artists abroad for residencies.

Phoenix Institute of Contemporary Art (phICA) is a not-for-profit organization which complements other regional cultural institutions while differentiating itself through collaboration and community partnerships and by offering new ways for the public to enjoy, understand, and interpret contemporary art. phICA was envisioned and is structured to be organic and efficient and is a non-collecting institution with a primary focus on exhibition projects, culturally-immersive artist residencies, and arts incubation activities. The founding Board of Directors first met to discuss their mutual vision in October 2007, officially organized in 2009 with the first exhibition project launched in March 2011.

**ONLOADED 4** Project Artists for Fall 2016 – Spring 2017:

Openings are on Third Fridays of the month; also open on First Fridays and by special appointment. All *Onloaded* exhibitions are curated for phICA by Ted G. Decker except where noted.

**Darrin Armijo-Wardle**, Phoenix, Opens October 21, 2016 - November 13, 2016

**Ruben Martel**, Imperial, CA, Opens October 21, 2016 – November 13, 2016

This is the second collaborative project between phICA, the Centro Internacional de las Artes, AC (CIAAC), Tijuana, and Ayuntamiento de Tijuana/IMAC. Curated by Arturo López González and Ted G. Decker for phICA.

**Larry Madrigal**, Peoria, Opens November 18, 2016 – December 11, 2016

**Brian Boner and Jon Linton, *Pillow***, Opens December 16, 2016 – January 15, 2017

**Chris Jagmin**, Phoenix, Opens January 20, 2017 – February 12, 2017

**Wayne Hulgín**, San Diego, CA, Opens February 17, 2017 – March 12, 2017

**Ramon Aguirre**, Phoenix, Opens March 17, 2017 – April 16, 2017

**Pedro Vaz**, Lisbon, Portugal, Opens March 17, 2017 – April 16, 2017

**Aaron Kirchmaier**, Phoenix, Opens April 21, 2017 – May 14, 2017

**EMERGING CURATOR INITIATIVE** Exhibition Projects for Fall, 2016 – Spring, 2017:

Openings are on Third Fridays of the month; also open on First Fridays and by special appointment.

**Colleen Donohoe**, Phoenix, Opens November 18, 2016 – December 11, 2016

**Angelica Fox**, Tempe, Opens December 16, 2016 – January 15, 2017

**Courtney Faith Richter**, Los Angeles, CA, Opens January 20, 2017 – February 12, 2017

**Tippi Hart**, Mesa, Opens February 17, 2017 – March 12, 2017

**Sydney Lines**, Tempe, Opens February 17, 2017 – March 12, 2017

**Darcia Mickey Canby**, Mesa, Opens March 17, 2017 – April 16, 2017

**Faith Damm & Alexis Sheets**, Mesa, Opens April 21, 2017 – May 14, 2017