



For Immediate Release

ARTSWAVE PRESENTS FIRST VISUAL ART PIECE IN *FLOW* SERIES FOR BLINK

BLINK® Partner ArtsWave Presents Mural by Max Sansing With Projection by Chaske Haverkos As Part of Ongoing Flow Art Series



October 13, 2022 - October 16, 2022
Cincinnati, Ohio

Cincinnati, OH (September 8, 2022) - Illuminated by ArtsWave, BLINK is a large-scale example of the incredible artistic possibilities presented when an entire city is treated as a canvas. The event embraces collaboration at its core, presenting incredible works throughout Cincinnati. There is one example of this collaborative spirit that goes above and beyond the expected.



BLINK's dedicated partner ArtsWave presents the first instance of purely visual art in their exciting *Flow* Series, which thus far has consisted of quarterly performances by renowned Black artists and ensembles from around the country whose work is unique and exciting. The series, which is designed to attract a highly diverse, culturally adventurous audience and create a shared and elevated appreciation for artists of color, gets its next installment with a brand new mural by Max Sansing and Projection component by Chaske Haverkos. The Cincinnati based visual artist, Chaske Haverkos, will be working to projection map onto Max's mural exclusively during BLINK weekend. With a diverse skill set that can operate in all phases of creation from pre-production, concepting, to direction, Haverkos says that "finding opportunities for creative collaboration is a continual goal and I relish the opportunity to connect with others and create beautiful visual solutions."

Chicago-based Sansing draws on his recent works about resilience and existence as well as his experiences exploring the Cincy area and conversations with the residents to create a piece that holistically represents the local experience and the human experience. Sansing is thrilled to be a part of this program, emphasizing the importance of public arts.

In speaking about murals, Sansing notes, "Their roots are [in] storytelling, focusing on people and culture. The artist or artists can use their vision to express an idea or story for the public in the form of a landmark. With the many eyes that BLINK draws and the 3D visual components enhancing the work, this is public engagement on a whole other level."

The excitement and anticipation, as well as acknowledgement about the positive effect of art on the community is entirely mutual, with ArtsWave Vice President Janice Liebenberg expressing the synergy of this collaboration.

Liebenberg mentions, "*Flow* attracts a highly diverse, culturally adventurous audience and in doing so it creates shared and elevated appreciation for Black artists. BLINK, illuminated by ArtsWave, is a visual art event attracting that same sort of curious audience. The addition of an acclaimed and rising artist like Max made so much sense for us to commission on behalf of *Flow* for BLINK. Max's vibrantly colorful and emotionally expressive art is representative of the exciting and unique arts experiences *Flow* brings to Cincinnati which makes him a natural fit for the series. We are also excited to give our community this gift of a permanent mural by such a prominent, national Black artist."

The mural will debut the week before BLINK, with the projection experience debuting during the event. With so much teamwork and culture in this endeavor, it's sure to be a hub of energy and conversation.



About ArtsWave

ArtsWave, a nonprofit serving the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky Region, is the engine for the arts. Its roots stem back to the late 1920s when the Cincinnati Taft family provided initial investment matched by community support. In the late 1940s, it evolved to become the first united arts fund in the nation and in the mid-1970s, the first organization to initiate workplace giving for the arts. ArtsWave continues to innovate while leading, as illustrated by its No. 1 rank nationally in community arts fundraising; coordination of a sector-wide Blueprint for Collective Action; piloting of new technologies to maximize arts engagement; and development of resources for the arts.

Strong funding for the arts has allowed Cincinnati's arts and culture scene to become a national draw and regional asset, creating a wave of economic and community benefits. Each year, ArtsWave supports the work of over 150 arts organizations, school outreach programs, festivals, community centers, neighborhoods and various collaborations through impact-based grants. These grants create thousands of concerts, shows, exhibitions, arts for school children, public art, festivals and events like BLINK®. ArtsWave met its 2022 Campaign goal, raising \$11.5 million for the arts, an amount necessary, given the difficult health and economic crisis that has spanned more than two years. Donations can be made at artswave.org/give

About Max Sansing

Max Sansing is a Chicago-based fine artist and one of the city's most prolific and talented muralists. His distinct aesthetic fuses the color-drenched dynamism of street art with the technical elegance of photorealism. Born and raised on the South Side by two artistic parents, Sansing discovered his passion and creative gift at an early age. During his youth he was involved with several graffiti crews and taught himself oil painting before completing formal training at the American Academy of Art. In addition to his studio practice, Sansing is frequently commissioned to create large-scale murals and experiential installations across the country. He is deeply committed to supporting his Chicago community and is involved with numerous youth programs that expand arts opportunities in underserved areas. His work has been featured in gallery shows and special events in Chicago, New York, and Miami among others.

About BLINK

Last experienced by over 1.3M people in 2019, BLINK, Illuminated by ArtsWave, welcomes all to Cincinnati, Ohio October 13-16, 2022. The four-day, 30 city block, outdoor art experience is sure to be unforgettable, uniting street art, projection mapping and light-based installations.

Not only does the event speak to the dynamic evolution of the Cincinnati art community, it calls upon the city's deep roots in supporting the arts. BLINK is illuminated by ArtsWave, the first and largest community campaign in the nation and the primary way that Cincinnati funds its arts. When tens of thousands of people and hundreds of companies give to ArtsWave, they support 150



cultural organizations and projects each year like BLINK that make our region vibrant. Donations to BLINK and other arts projects and organizations can be made at artswave.org/give.

BLINK is produced and curated by its Executive Partners - the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber, AGAR, and the Haile Foundation, and produced in conjunction with its Partners ArtWorks, Cincy Nice, and ish - to provide opportunities for regional artists and bring in global creators all in the pursuit of a stronger community.

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Media Inquiries: Hijinx PR | Heidi Johnson | heidi@hijinxarts.com | 323.204.7246