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Fall at Fort Mason: Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture Announces Fall Arts Season

Programs include new Fort Mason Mural Project installation, book launch; public arts reception; plus, areawide DIY Halloween extravaganza



Bolivia Corazón de América dancers perform at the 2017 Whoop Dee Doo show at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Photo credit: Charles Villyard Photography.

(San Francisco, Calif.) – In a nod to San Francisco’s long love affair with masquerade, outrageous performance, and Halloween revelry of historic proportions, Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture (FMCAC) today announced its presentation of Whoop Dee Doo, a Brooklyn-based traveling DIY stage extravaganza showcasing local arts groups, part of its new fall arts season on the historic campus. Taking the Cowell Theater stage on October 29 and 30, the show features performances from Bay Area artist groups Bolivia Corazón de América, David Hardiman and the San Francisco All-Star Big Band, and the TURFinc street dance troupe. Behind the scenes, Whoop Dee Doo has partnered with the Boys and Girls Clubs of San Francisco, Galileo High School Futurama program, and Sunset Youth Services to build sets, design costumes, and run back-of-house duties.

Rounding out FMCAC’s new season are [*Aun así, pienso en ti*](#), a new outdoor mural installation from San Francisco artist Christo Oropeza; publication of a new catalog highlighting the art of *Wat Walls* by muralists Thitiwat Phromratanapongse and Sarah Siskin; and an October 22nd artists’ reception and Whoop Dee Doo preview.



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Bridging between FMCAC's summer and fall seasons is the late August premiere of "[Z Excavations / at the edge of the shore and the edge of the world](#)", a film featuring the June 21st performance of choreographer Sara Shelton Mann's new work commissioned for the Fort Mason Art program.

"We're excited to return to a full slate of arts programming that celebrates the region's rich arts tableau," said Mike Buhler, president, and chief executive officer, FMCAC. "From continuing San Francisco's storied mural tradition and celebrating its love of spectacle to placemaking, collaboration, and a fierce DIY spirit, this season speaks to the ethos of Bay Area arts."

Frank Smigiel, FMCAC's Director of Arts Programming & Partnerships, notes: "Our fall art experiences take us from outside to inside, from an everyday encounter to a deep theatrical dive. These projects imagine how work gets done – whether loading a ship or getting kids together to put on a show – and we're thrilled to showcase these artistic takes on city living."

Fall Art @ FMCAC 2022-23

Aun así, pienso en ti (Still, I think of you): mural, Landmark Buildings B and C

Located between historic Buildings B and C, "Aun así, pienso en ti" is a new mural painting suite by San Francisco artist Christo Oropeza. When completed in early September, the project will remain on view through January 2023. As the second of FMCAC's annual outdoor painting commissions, Oropeza remakes former Army loading docks into portraits of its machine history. Continuing a thread in his 2019 "Whatever the Work May Be" exhibition at Guerrero Gallery, and mural projects for Facebook and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Oropeza takes up the specialized tools and everyday objects that help us hang artworks, maintain hallways, and keep the lights on around campus.

Whoop Dee Doo Halloween performances, Cowell Theater

Brooklyn-based Whoop Dee Doo artists collaborate with local youth groups to develop a unique show theme, sets, costuming, and line-up of participating performers for each project. For their first proscenium appearance in the Cowell Theater, Whoop Dee Doo will join young collaborators from the Boys & Girls Club of San Francisco, Galileo High School's Futurama Program, and Sunset Youth Services to create a Halloween experience for the whole family.

Performers include Bolivia Corazón de América, the San Francisco All-Star Big Band, and the Oakland-based dance organization TURFinc. Viewers can check in on the creation of this new performance through Whoop Dee Doo's Instagram page, (@whoopDeeedooshow), and FMCAC's social media channels (@fortmasoncenter), beginning in mid-October. Tickets for the October 29 and 30 performances go on sale on September 13, 2022, at fortmason.org/events.



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Wat Walls catalog: this catalog features artist notes and an interview with muralists Thitiwat Phromratanapongse and Sarah Siskin, plus photos from this inaugural Fort Mason Mural Project, which debuted in September 2022. The book will be available for sale on campus and at fortmason.org in late October.

Artists' reception + Whoop Dee Doo preview, Gallery 308

On October 22, 2-5pm, the public is invited for an afternoon reception to welcome artists Christo Oropeza and Whoop Dee Doo cast members, and a book-signing with the artists featured in the Wat Walls catalog. The event is free and open to the public; light refreshments will be served. Registration is required to attend and will be open at fortmason.org in mid-September.

About the Artists

Christo Oropeza: A San Francisco native, Christo Oropeza describes himself as a “cultural worker” to embrace his distinct work as an artist, curator, gallerist, producer, and museum staffer. His recent work includes mural commissions for the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and Facebook’s Artist in Residence program; the painting exhibition *Whatever the Work May Be* at Guerrero Gallery; and as the curator of *Con Los Animales Estamos Conectados* for the NIAD Arts Center. With fellow artist Brian Perrin, Oropeza co-founded Incline Gallery in 2010. He has been named to the YBCA 100 list of transformational figures. A graduate of San Francisco State University, he founded the San Pancho Art Collective to create a post-school community for Bay Area artists.

Whoop Dee Doo: An artist-led project based in Brooklyn, NY, Whoop Dee Doo creates installations and live performances through partner museums, galleries, arts organizations, festivals, and universities. Each project engages the partner organization’s immediate communities to work closely with young people and non-profit groups; together, they research, conceive, and create site-specific programming. The Whoop Dee Doo process emphasizes collaboration, works to amplify unique community voices and seeks to initiate a cross-generational and cross-cultural dialogue. Since 2006, Whoop Dee Doo has created over fifty large-scale projects for organizations including the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; The Smart Museum; Loyal (Sweden); POP Montreal; The Contemporary (Baltimore); and Knockdown Center (Queens).

Bolivia Corazón de América (BCA): Bolivia Corazón de América was formed to connect Bolivian American children to their heritage, showcasing Bolivia’s rich and varied culture. BCA educates audiences through various innovative and professional performances, often re-creating Bolivian dances by taking on innovative approaches to ancient and rare forms.

David Hardiman and the San Francisco All-Star Big Band: The San Francisco All-Star Big Band professionals have performed, recorded, traveled, and associated with such notables as Tony Bennett, “Dizzy” Gillespie, Earl “Fatha” Hines, Ray Charles, Freddie



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Hubbard, and Sun Ra, among others. Collectively they have performed all over the world. David Hardiman is a trumpet player, educator, bandleader, composer, community activist, Local 6 life member, and leader/director of the All-Star Big Band.

The TURFinc: TURFinc’s mission is to spread the original dance culture of TURF movement – an art form established in Oakland, California – and to use it as a positive platform for dancers, youth, and community members in Oakland and across the Bay Area. Founded by Johnny Anthony Lopez (“Johnny5”), TURFinc serves as a platform for inner city kids to learn the fundamentals of TURF dancing and offers them an engaging, exciting way to excel. The overall goal of TURFinc is to take this powerful dance style into positive environments where experienced and developing dancers can showcase their skills and share their stories with a broader audience.

About the Partners

Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture (FMCAC): A decommissioned military installation converted into a nonprofit cultural center, FMCAC hosts a lively mix of arts, educational, and cultural programming. Each year FMCAC provides more than \$2 million in support to local arts organizations, enabling groups to produce diverse and innovative artworks at the historic waterfront campus. With a four-decade history as an arts and culture destination, FMCAC is now focused on reinvigorating its programming and amenities to better engage the evolving Bay Area creative community. Central to this new vision is the commissioning and presentation of adventurous and unconventional artworks best realized in nontraditional or historical settings.

Boys and Girls Clubs of San Francisco: Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco (BGCSF) inspires and enables all young people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens. BGCSF provides high-quality programs and support services that allow Club members to leave us at age 18 “ready for life,” focusing on Four essential program areas: academic success, healthy lifestyles, good character and community engagement, and job readiness.

Galileo High School Futurama Program: The Galileo Academy of Science and Technology provides students with career pathways in biotechnology, environmental science, health, hospitality and tourism, computer science, and creative media technology. The Futurama After-School Program at Galileo Academy provides a variety of free, on-campus academic and enrichment activities.

Sunset Youth Services: The mission of Sunset Youth Services is to foster long-term stability and growth for systems-impacted youth, young adults, and families through caring relationships and supportive services. This goal is based on the simple belief that youth are inherently worthy of dignity and respect and have the potential to contribute positively to their



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communities when their real needs are met. Their healing-centered approach to youth development helps to recognize that young people are active agents in the creation of their well-being and, given the opportunity and resources, have the power to address the roots of their own trauma.

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Photos [here](#)

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