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For Immediate Release

August 13, 2018

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ASSOCIATED ARTISTS OF PITTSBURGH PRESENTS

106th Annual Exhibition

Juried exhibition of contemporary work by Associated Artists of Pittsburgh's members

PITTSBURGH, Pa – From September 14 – October 27, 2018, Associated Artists of Pittsburgh (AAP) presents the *106th Annual Exhibition*, one of the region's oldest visual arts exhibitions. Juried by University of Maryland Art Gallery acting director Taras Matla, the Annual will feature the most recent work of selected AAP membership. The Annual will be held at 2708 Sidney Street, a former upscale retail space in Pittsburgh's Southside neighborhood.

"I'm absolutely delighted to participate in this year's Annual Exhibition," says juror Taras W. Matla. "Harnessing top artistic talent from a variety of backgrounds is at the core of what AAP does best. The genuine sense of community is evident in all that they do."

For the 106th Annual, AAP is also introducing their Emerging Curator Program, an educational initiative to identify and train curatorial voices from throughout the Pittsburgh region. After an application process, the emerging curator will serve as the Annual's curatorial assistant and work directly with Matla. After the Annual, the emerging curator will follow a development and networking schedule and curate their own AAP exhibition in Spring 2019.

"There is no greater degree of satisfaction in this field than fostering the professional development of the next generation of arts leaders. I look forward to mentoring as well as learning from the selected curatorial assistant," says Matla.

The success of AAP's 106th Annual Exhibition is due, in large part, to a generous grant from The Pittsburgh Foundation. All AAP exhibitions are supported by AAP members, individual donors, The Heinz Endowments, The Pittsburgh Foundation, Opportunity Fund, Jack Buncher Foundation, Allegheny Regional Asset District, The Buhl Foundation, S Kent Rockwell Foundation, and Irving and Aaronel deRoy Gruber Charitable Foundation.

The exhibition will open to the public on the evening of Friday, September 14, from 6:30pm-9:00pm. A ticket-only preview party and fundraiser will be held the previous evening, Thursday, September 13th. A reception and music will accompany both. Throughout the run of the event, AAP will sponsor artist talks, curatorial tours, and other programming. Follow AAP's Facebook page and website to learn more.

The exhibition is open to the public Tuesdays through Saturdays from 11:00am to 7:00pm. Admission is free. For more information please call 412.361.1370 or email aap@aapgh.org.

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Associated Artists of Pittsburgh
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About Associated Artists of Pittsburgh

The Associated Artists of Pittsburgh (AAP) is the oldest continuous-exhibiting artist member organization in the country. At over 600 members, AAP enhances the region's cultural vitality and promotes visual arts excellence by showcasing artists' work through contemporary exhibitions, providing community-based education programs, and facilitating a broad dialogue to engage artists with one another and the community.

About Taras Matla

Taras Matla is Associate Director and current acting director of the University of Maryland Art Gallery. At the Gallery, he oversees the day-to-day operations and a permanent collection of nearly 3,000 works of art. He has also organized and curated several key shows at the Gallery including 2017's *Laid, Placed, and Arranged* (2017), *Timeline: The University of Maryland Art Gallery at 50*, and 2014's *John Baldessari: Four Short Films, 1972-73*. Prior to the University of Maryland Art Gallery, Matla worked at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art where he managed the museum's Department of Prints and Drawings and at The J. Paul Getty Trust where he served as a spokesperson for its four programs and numerous other programmatic and cultural activities. A native of Los Angeles, CA, Matla holds a BFA in Printmaking from California State University, Long Beach and an MA in Aesthetics and Politics from California Institute of the Arts.