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**EXPO CHICAGO ANNOUNCES STEPHANIE CRISTELLO AS
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

Kathleen Rapp as Managing Director – VIP Relations, Jeff Rhodes as Managing Director –
Operations & Exhibitor Relations,

CHICAGO—EXPO CHICAGO, The International Exposition of Contemporary & Modern Art, today announced that **Stephanie Cristello**, Editor in Chief of *THE SEEN* and formerly EXPO CHICAGO's Director of Programming, will assume the role of EXPO CHICAGO Artistic Director effective immediately. As the exposition enters its eighth edition (September 19 – 22, 2019), Cristello will shape the exposition's programmatic initiatives, working in collaboration with diverse local, national and international curators, writers, artists and institutions. Cristello will work alongside newly appointed Managing Director – VIP Relations **Kathleen Rapp** and newly

appointed Managing Director – Operations & Exhibitor Relations **Jeff Rhodes** to continue to bring the highest quality contemporary art, galleries and collectors to the City of Chicago.

“EXPO CHICAGO is proud to elevate the positions of Stephanie Cristello, Kathleen Rapp and Jeff Rhodes, three longstanding and critical members of the EXPO CHICAGO team,” said EXPO CHICAGO President | Director **Tony Karman**. “The growth and success of the exposition is directly related to their professionalism, commitment and attention to excellence,” he added. “The exposition prides itself on presenting critically acclaimed international programming and service in support of our exhibitors and visiting patrons, and I am extremely proud to be working with, and learning from, this extraordinary team.”

Stephanie Cristello is a critic and curator specializing in exhibitions and publications of contemporary art based in Chicago, IL. She is the founding Editor-in-Chief of *THE SEEN*, *Chicago's International Journal of Contemporary & Modern Art*, and was previously the Senior Editor US for *ArtSlant*. She has frequently contributed to the London-based publications *ArtReview* and *Elephant Magazine*, and her writing has appeared in *Frieze Magazine*, *BOMB Magazine*, and *New American Paintings* among other outlets, as well as numerous exhibition catalogues nationally and internationally. In her role as Artistic Director of EXPO CHICAGO, Cristello will continue to oversee the exposition's core programs and initiatives including curating the /Dialogues panel program, presented in partnership with the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Exchange by Northern Trust: *An Interactive Conversation Around the Art of Collecting*, site-specific installations, off-site exhibition initiatives, national and international institutional collaborations and curatorial programs.

“In my newly appointed role as Artistic Director, one of the many initiatives I will focus on is the expansion of our year-long curatorial programs and global partnerships, which have helped to position EXPO CHICAGO as a leading international art fair in the United States.” said **Stephanie Cristello**, Artistic Director of EXPO CHICAGO and Editor-in-Chief of THE SEEN. “After six years with the organization, and the launch of numerous core programs, I look forward to being at the helm of expanding the legacy of an exposition whose mission reflects the strength of Chicago's unique cultural and artistic context—as a site for leading challenging and rigorous discourse, presenting innovative platforms and initiating institutional collaborations within the global contemporary art field.”

Kathleen Rapp has been with EXPO CHICAGO since its inception in 2010 and has played a pivotal role in the creation and strategic growth of the exposition, the VIP program and the fair's audience development efforts globally and throughout the United States. As a skilled administrator with more than 10 years of experience working in galleries and non-profit organizations, and a background in International Business and Fine Art from Georgia State University, Rapp has spearheaded numerous successful professional initiatives during her tenure including; the Curatorial Forum, produced in partnership with Independent Curators International (ICI); the Collectors Exchange program with leading international art fairs and organizations; the Northern Trust Collectors Experience; and Ambassador programs.

Working to create and develop partnerships with prominent museums and institutions—as well as advisors and patrons of the arts, particularly in North America—Rapp has been instrumental in strengthening the fair's commitment to meaningful relationships and global engagement, a focus she will continue to develop serving as Managing Director – VIP Relations.

Jeff Rhodes has over twenty years of experience in arts programming and art fair management, working for a range of organizations spanning the public and private sectors. Specializing in

logistics and operations, Rhodes has held leadership positions for international art fairs based in Miami and Chicago. As Managing Director – Operations and Exhibitor Relations, Rhodes will continue to focus on the exhibitor experience, building upon EXPO CHICAGO's strong reputation as an exposition that is a pleasure to participate in. In addition to leading the execution of all logistics in a manner that satisfies the standards of the exposition's leading international dealers, Rhodes will continue to work towards ensuring a rewarding visitor experience for attending curators, collectors and art enthusiasts at large.

About Stephanie Cristello

In addition to Cristello's work as a critic, Editor-in-Chief of *THE SEEN*, *Chicago's International Journal of Contemporary & Modern Art* and Artistic Director of EXPO CHICAGO, recent exhibition projects include a partnership with the Palais de Tokyo and the Institut français to present their first off-site exhibition in the United States at the Roundhouse at the DuSable Museum of African American History, which featured 13 artists from the French and Chicago scenes in alignment with the Chicago Architecture Biennial. She also serves as the Director / Curator at Chicago Manual Style, a dual-format project space dedicated to thematic exhibitions and publishing. Her curatorial practice focuses on artists whose work critically engages with the image and its role in visual culture. Concentrating on contemporary conceptual practice post-1960, her research is specifically motivated by works that interrogate how language, text and the use of poetic devices both form and shape the images, objects and built environment that surrounds us, within the context of institutional and art historical structures. She has worked internationally across a variety of platforms, including exhibitions, panels and symposia, publishing and editorial, as well as organizing cultural exchanges between leading global institutions. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Liberal Arts Thesis in Visual Critical Studies at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

About EXPO CHICAGO

Opening the fall art season each September, **EXPO CHICAGO**, The International Exposition of Contemporary & Modern Art features leading international galleries alongside one of the highest quality platforms for contemporary art and culture. Hosted within Navy Pier's Festival Hall, EXPO CHICAGO's eighth edition will take place September 19 – 22, 2019, in alignment with the 2019 Chicago Architecture Biennial (September 19, 2019 – January 5, 2020). EXPO CHICAGO presents a diverse program, including **Dialogues** (presented in partnership with the School of the Art Institute of Chicago) and ***Exchange by Northern Trust***, an unrivaled talks program for both public and VIP audiences; **IN/SITU**, dynamic on-site installations highlighting large-scale sculpture, film, and site-specific work; and major public art initiatives, including **IN/SITU Outside**, public art installed throughout Chicago Park District locations, and **OVERRIDE**, a curated selection of international artists throughout the city's digital billboard network. The EXPO CHICAGO program also features an unprecedented commitment to host curatorial initiatives during the exposition, including the **Curatorial Forum** in partnership with Independent Curators International (ICI), and the **Curatorial Exchange**, which partners with international consulates to expand the exposition's global outreach. EXPO CHICAGO is the publisher of **THE SEEN**, Chicago's only international journal of contemporary and modern art criticism, online and in print.

EXPO CHICAGO is presented by Art Expositions, LLC. Under the leadership of President and Director **Tony Karman**, EXPO CHICAGO draws upon the city's rich history as a vibrant international cultural destination, while highlighting the region's contemporary arts

community and inspiring its collector base. For more information on EXPO CHICAGO and **EXPO ART WEEK** (September 16 – 22, 2019) visit **expochicago.com**.

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