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**For Immediate Release:**

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*Navy Pier's Aon Grand Ballroom Courtesy of Chicago History Museum (Left)  
The Beach by Snarkitecture Courtesy of Snarkitecture (Right)*

**SNARKITECTURE'S INTERACTIVE INSTALLATION *THE BEACH* CHICAGO TO TRANSFORM NAVY PIER'S HISTORIC AON GRAND BALLROOM**

The Free and Open to the Public Experience on View January 19 through February 3, 2019

Chicago, IL – **Navy Pier**, in alignment with the eighth edition of **EXPO CHICAGO**, The International Exposition of Contemporary and Modern Art, presents the large-scale interactive installation, ***The Beach*** in Chicago. Created by **Snarkitecture**, a New York-based collaborative design practice led by Alex Mustonen, Daniel Arsham and Ben Porto, the installation will transform Navy Pier's historic 18,000-square-foot *Aon Grand Ballroom* (840 E Grand Ave.), which was designed by Charles Sumner Frost and constructed in 1916. *The Beach Chicago* will be free and open to the public from January 19 through February 3, 2019.

“As EXPO CHICAGO looks to present its eighth edition in 2019, we will continue to produce year-round partnerships with numerous creative endeavors on the local, regional and global scale,” said EXPO CHICAGO President | Director **Tony Karman**. “We are very proud to be starting off the calendar year with the opening of Snarkitecture’s monumental installation *The Beach* at Navy Pier in January and to be announcing new initiatives to add to the previously

announced alignments – the Chicago Architecture Biennial and the Kabakovs’ major public artwork *The Ship of Tolerance*,” he added. “We believe strongly that these collaborations contribute greatly to the cultural vitality of our great city and ensures that next year’s art exposition will be as engaging and critically acclaimed as our past editions.”

The immersive installation is comprised of a tall enclosure which creates a large, open room filled with over a million antimicrobial and recyclable plastic spheres along with deck chairs, lifeguard chairs, umbrellas and signage that mimic the sensation of a day at the beach, complete with a pier that extends over the ‘sea’ of spheres from which onlookers can watch and revel in the installation below. Guests of the project experience the familiar social cues and visual sensations of visiting a beach while simultaneously being delighted by the unique setting. Earlier presentations of *The Beach* have taken place in Washington, D.C., Tampa, Sydney, Paris and Bangkok. Chicago will serve as the third site in the U.S. and first in the Midwest.

“We’re thrilled that *The Beach* is coming to Chicago,” said Snarkitecture co-founder **Alex Mustonen**. “and especially to Navy Pier, just blocks from many of Chicago’s well-known beaches. Like much of Snarkitecture’s work, *The Beach* invites a wide, diverse audience to participate in an elevated, immersive and memorable environment that encourages reflection and play. For us, Navy Pier is a perfect venue for *The Beach*, as it is a place with a history of both spectacle and culture, particularly given their public arts programming and partnership with EXPO CHICAGO.”

## **EXPO CHICAGO /Dialogues Talk**

**Thursday, January 17 | 6pm** (Graham Foundation | 4 W. Burton Pl.)

### **Snarkitecture – *The Beach Chicago***

In advance of the unveiling of *The Beach*, the Graham Foundation, in partnership with EXPO CHICAGO and Navy Pier presents a talk by **Alex Mustonen** and **Benjamin Porto** of Snarkitecture. Snarkitecture’s work focuses on the reinterpretation of everyday materials within a conceptual approach to create unexpected engagements with our surroundings — centered on the importance of experience, this premise extends to *The Beach*, an all-white ocean of over one million recyclable, antimicrobial plastic spheres. Following this event, the Graham Foundation Bookshop will host a book signing of Snarkitecture’s recent catalogue, published by Phaidon.

*The Beach Chicago* is supported by The Chicago Free For All Fund at The Chicago Community Trust, the Navy Pier Associate Board and Hilton Worldwide.

For more information, [click here](#).

## **About Navy Pier**

Located on Lake Michigan, Navy Pier is one of the top-attended nonprofit destinations in the Midwest, stretching more than six city blocks and welcoming more than 9 million guests annually. Originally opened in 1916 as a shipping and recreation facility, this Chicago landmark showcases more than 50 acres of parks, restaurants, attractions, retail shops, sightseeing and dining cruise boats, exposition facilities and more. The Pier recently celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the unveiling of the iconic *Centennial Wheel*, *Polk Bros Park*, *Fifth Third Bank Family Pavilion* and *Peoples Energy Welcome Pavilion*. In 2019, Navy Pier continues to usher in

its second century with ongoing pier-wide redevelopment efforts – including a 220-room Hilton hotel with rooftop bar, a marina and more – in addition to free, year-round arts and cultural programming designed to inspire, educate and connect communities across the city and globe. For more information, visit [www.navy pier.org](http://www.navy pier.org) or download the free Navy Pier app for Android and iOS device users.

## **About EXPO CHICAGO**

**EXPO CHICAGO**, The International Exposition of Contemporary and Modern Art, is presented by Art Expositions, LLC at Navy Pier’s Festival Hall, hosting more than 135 leading International exhibitors presented alongside one of the highest quality platforms for global contemporary art and culture. Entering its eighth year as a leading international art fair, EXPO CHICAGO offers diverse programming including **/Dialogues, IN/SITU, IN/SITU Outside, EXPO VIDEO, the Curatorial Forum, the Art Critics Forum, Special Exhibitions, EXPO Sound and OVERRIDE | A Billboard Project.** In addition, EXPO CHICAGO continues to publish **THE SEEN**, Chicago’s International Journal of Contemporary & Modern Art. 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.

EXPO CHICAGO’s eighth edition will take place September 19 – 22, 2019, in alignment with the 2019 Chicago Architecture Biennial (September 19, 2018 – January 5, 2020). For more information on EXPO CHICAGO and **EXPO ART WEEK** (September 16 – 22, 2019) visit **epochicago.com**.

## **About Snarkitecture**

Snarkitecture is a New York-based collaborative design practice established to investigate the boundaries between disciplines. The name is drawn from Lewis Carroll’s *The Hunting of The Snark*, a poem describing the “impossible voyage of an improbable crew to find an inconceivable creature.” In its search for the unknown, Snarkitecture creates work that includes large-scale projects, installations and objects. Snarkitecture’s work focuses on the reinterpretation of everyday materials, structures and programs to new and imaginative effect. With a conceptual approach centered on the importance of experience, the studio creates unexpected and memorable moments that invite people to explore and engage with their surroundings. For more information, visit [www.snarkitecture.com](http://www.snarkitecture.com).

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