

# Upcoming Events

All events are free and open to the public.

## Reception

**September 13, 3 - 5 pm**

Join the artists and audience as we celebrate the Center Program's class of 2016.

## Crystal Seeing Events

**September 3, 10, 24, and**

**October 1: 4 - 8 pm**

**Septmber 13, 1 - 4 pm**

Receive insight and empowerment in a personal Crystal Seeing with artist **Dana Major**. Out of a multigenerational Kentucky family tradition, Dana Sees Inner Light using crystals, a practice known as a scrying, and offers guests over the age of 14 a free 3-10 minute affirmative personal message from the Self to the Self.

## Launch

**September 17, 6 pm**

**Drawing Performance\*  
(takes place off site)**

**September 20, 3 pm**

**Regin Igloria** begins his performance walk to the Outhaus in Urbana, IL. Participate in a ceremonial launch at HPAC on the 17th. A drawing performance will occur in Urbana upon his arrival there September 20th.

## Hyde ParkARTCENTER

5020 South Cornell Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60615 773.324.5520 [www.hydeparkart.org](http://www.hydeparkart.org)

Hyde Park Art Center is a unique resource that advances contemporary visual art in Chicago by connecting artists and communities in unexpected ways. The Art Center is funded in part by the: Alphawood Foundation; Andy Warhol Foundation for Visual Arts; a City Arts III grant from the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events; Field Foundation of Illinois; Harpo Foundation; Harper Court Arts Council; Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; The Irving Harris Foundation; The Joyce Foundation; Leo S. Guthman Fund; Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; Polk Bros. Foundation; Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust; and the generosity of people like you.

## LIFE 2.0 Open Forum with

**Kunal Sen**

**September 19, 3 pm**

Join artist **Kunal Sen**- a trained computer scientist- in an open forum to discuss age old questions associated with his latest series *Life 2.0*. The conversation will revolve around questions such as "What is life?" "Can there be artificial life?" "Can machines really think" and "What is consciousness?"

## Artist Talk + Public Critique

**September 20, 3 pm**

Center Program artists will each talk about their artworks in the exhibition and answer questions about their practice.

## Walking Club

**September 24 & October 1,  
6 pm**

Venture on a group walk led by **Regin Igloria** that includes a performance/book presentation. The club will meet at the Wel/Come Back sign outside of the Art Center.

## What is Seeing?

**September 26, 2 - 3 pm**

What is seeing? Be surprised at your own vision and what we can know about ourselves and our world from seeing. **Dr. Robert Bonham Simmons** and artist **Dana Major** invite participants to a fun, engaging presentation for all ages.

## Artist Talk and Ball Drop

**October 3, 11 am**

**Kara Cobb Johnson** will lead an artist talk in Gallery 1 around her work, followed by a live experience of over 3,000 colored Water Jewels bouncing down two flights of stairs. This event will be filmed and documented.

## Pattern Workshop

**October 3, 1 - 4 pm**

In this workshop led by **Tina Tahir** learn how to create seamless repeat-patterns using a hybrid of drawing skills, found imagery, and Photoshop.

# Front & Center

Artwork by artists participating in The Center Program

Gallery 1, 2, & Cleve Carney Gallery  
September 13, 2015 – October 4, 2015



Dana Major, *Light Installation*, 2015, LEDs, glass and wire, dimensions variable

Hyde Park  
**ART  
CEN  
TER**

# Fluidity of Ideas

## On The Center Program

This program is an “inside-out” program, meaning making items or experiences are important, but the larger goals are to push artists to “center” themselves, and identify ways to contribute to the larger art world community regardless of what things are constructed. Over the course of six months these artists push and pull themselves - and each other - towards new heights. They learn from peers in the program, and are inspired by professionals who visit from the larger art world. But most importantly, each Center Program participant connects with themselves, something that is far more important to their long-termsuccess as artists, professionals, and people.

Thank you to Tricia Van Eck, each of our visiting professionals, and especially each of this year’s Center Program artists for their hard work, peer support, and thoughtful participation. The exhibition is a testament to the drive to cultivate careers that inspire, and communities that matter.

Mike Nourse  
Director of Education

## On Curating and Making Art

*Front & Center* presents the final work of twenty five artists – each from different backgrounds, ages, education paths, and careers – from the Center program. Unlike most group shows at Hyde Park Art Center this show has no theme nor a shared materiality that joins the work together, yet the show has a strong cohesiveness. Looking around the galleries one sees a consistent high level of ambition, risk taking, and attention to detail and execution. Each work has been given space to breathe to allow each to speak, within its own language, to the public in a very personal way. This space is an extension of the respect that the Center students have given to each others’ unique experiences and vast array of talent. The artists’ work ranges from experimentin with light, pursuing philosophy through robotics, and addressing personal, social, and political issues not only within Chicago but Alabama, Lebanon Mexico, and Scandinavia.

The Center program is similar to art school programs – an artist presents work, which is then critiqued – yet two things make the Center program unique: the Center’s artists unlike most art schools, come from vastly different experiences and the Center’s critiques are not just between the professor and students but involve an array of outside professional voices – artists Dawoud Bey, Jim Duignan, Laura Letinsky, Charles Ray, David Schutter, dealers John Corbett and Dan Devening, critic Susan Snodgrass, and curators Annie Morse, Patterson Sims, and myself. In many ways these outside voices create an unique cohesion among the Center’s artists, since they are familiar with each others’ work, they then also listen to the different mentors’ conversations and feedback. This combination of outside and inside perspectives lead the artists to



Installation view (left to right): Sculpture by Christine Forni and wall work by Erin Toale.

## Featuring artwork by:

Ali Aschman  
Mara Baker  
Javier Carmona  
Kara Cobb Johnson  
Michelle Collazo-Anderson  
Lily Dithrich  
Christine Forni  
Elizabeth Gadelha  
Rami George  
Samantha Hill  
Regin Igloria  
Jeremiah Jones  
Rita Koehler  
Ivan Lozano  
Dana Major  
Carlos Matallana  
Lars Nordby  
Kunal Sen  
Naqeeb Stevens  
Tina Tahir  
Erin Toale  
Julian Williams  
Zachary Williams

seriously as I regard mine is essential for my work. Resource sharing, camaraderie, and creative reflection keep my work flowing in the contemporary conversation. Just like any other “world,” the Art World is first a social arrangement, a conversation and set of activities that serve as a platform for the presentation of art. The Center Program provides the much-needed personal interaction with the CP classmates and alumni who form the basic vital community of top-notch artists who have become respected colleagues, collaborators, and friends.

Dana Major  
2015 Center Program Artist

advance in different ways, each responding or sometimes challenging suggestions at different speeds and in different ways. In many respects, it is this call and response that has created the ambitious work you see here. Many of the artists -- Dana Major, Liz Gadelha, Kara Cobb Johnson, and Zachary Williams -- were empowered to answer the challenge of the gallery’s height. Others such as Christine Forni, Julian Williams, and Rami George delved into the depths of personal issues while Ivan LOZANO and Samantha Hill confronted more social concerns whether contemporary or historical. This critical commitment to face difficult issues, whether internal or external, is encouraged by the program and its mentors, but it is this group of artists’ ambitious commitment to growth that has propelled each others’ risk taking with passion, commitment, and compassion.

Tricia Van Eck  
Guest Curator of *Front & Center*

## On Participating

Even beyond dynamic, one-time visits with stellar curators, the outstanding takeaway reward of HPAC’s Center Program is the community of dedicated, practicing artists the program creates with active weekly meetings for six months. Reflection with peers who regard their own practices as



Artwork from left to right by: Julian Williams, Elizabeth Gadelha, and Kara Cobb Johnson