



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public Reception with Artist Yong Chen and Live Music Celebrates Family this Wednesday, January 18th at City Hall

January 16, 2017 (Manchester, NH) – Manchester Arts Commission (MAC) will hold a free public reception for artist Yong Chen this Wednesday, January 18th from 5pm – 7pm at City Hall on Elm Street in Manchester. The reception will begin with a short ceremony celebrating Chen’s family-themed art work. Live music will be provided courtesy of Manchester Music Mill and snacks and beverages will be served courtesy of Matbah Mediterranean Cuisine. All are invited to attend this family oriented event.

Chen has 30 original watercolor pieces on display within City Hall throughout January as part of MAC’s “Art on the Wall @ City Hall” gallery. This new series of watercolor paintings by Chen encourage parents to bring our children back to the nature, to the endless fun and creative activities outdoors.

Young musicians Emily Richardson (age 12) and Noah Richardson (age 9) will perform live music on harp and piano. All art work displayed will be available for purchase. Chen’s gallery exhibit is made possible through courteous sponsorship from Merrimack Street Volvo.

“My efforts, artistically, is to depict children in the settings that enrich their lives,” states Chen. I’m experiencing the same struggle as most parents do of how to balance life and work in the modern technologically obsessed environment around us. My core belief that guides my parenting is that that children are happier when they’re outside, in the sunshine, playing, enjoying the natural world, exploring and learning about the wonderful world they live in. We are part of the nature.”

Chen began drawing and painting at the age of four. Yong studied Graphic Design and Illustration in Boston, and earned his Master of Fine Arts from the University of Hartford, CT. Chen is also an accomplished illustrator, he has illustrated/authored many children’s books and children’s magazines. Publishers of his work include: Little Brown and Company, HarperCollins, Boyds Mills Press, Highlights for Children, Spider, Cricket, and AppleSeeds. Besides working as a professional artist, Yong has been an art professor teaching drawing, watercolor, painting and illustration in some 4-year and 2-year colleges in New England. Currently he is a tenure professor of art at Bunker Hill Community College in Boston.



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For the past 20 years, Chen has been devoting his time for public art education online. He has a regularly publishing YouTube channel that he use to teach drawing and painting free to the would – every Tuesday he publishes a drawing lesson, every Wednesday he teaches a lesson of painting, and on Thursday he gives suggestions on a patron's or a student's artwork, or, upload a video of a painting process. Visit his channel at: www.youtube.com/enjoyingart

For more info on the artist, please feel free to contact Yong Chen at artist36@gmail.com. For free art lessons and to commission a portrait, visit <http://yongchen.com/>

The **Manchester Arts Commission (MAC)** is dedicated to promoting art of all forms within the City of Manchester, NH. MAC coordinates the display of local artists' works through the "Art on the Wall @ City Hall" program; the National Arts Program Exhibit in July/August showcasing art work from City of Manchester employees and their immediate family members; and as a partner in "Manchester Trolley Tours: Exploring Art and Culture." MAC works with like-minded companies, organizations, educational institutions and individuals to commission public sculpture and public art displays to elevate appreciation of Manchester's growing arts community - while directly adding to the economic impact of arts and culture within downtown Manchester. Working closely with the Economic Development Office, the Planning Board and Intown Manchester, MAC ensures that public art works may possess beauty in the highest practicable degree. To learn more about MAC, visit <http://manchesterartscommission.org>, or follow MAC on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/manchesterarts/>, on Twitter at @manchesterarts and on Instagram at @manchesterartscommission.

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Press Images:

Yong Chen at City Hall:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/cpka2fawvwxx2a6/mac_yongchen_aotw_1920px.jpg?dl=0

Yong Chen Art Work:

http://art.yongchen.com/under_sun/index.html