



For Immediate Release

## PUBLIC ART FUND ANNOUNCES NEW PAINTED SCULPTURE BY HAROLD ANCART, OPENING MAY 1

### ARTIST TO BUILD AND PAINT A PLAYABLE HANDBALL COURT IN CADMAN PLAZA PARK, BROOKLYN



#### ***Harold Ancart: Subliminal Standard***

**May 1, 2019 – March 1, 2020**

**Cadman Plaza Park, Brooklyn**

**(North Lawn between Cadman Plaza East and Cadman Plaza West)**

**January 28, 2019, NEW YORK, NY—** On May 1, **Public Art Fund** will present *Subliminal Standard*, a new commission by Brooklyn-based, Belgian-born artist **Harold Ancart** inspired by New York City's ubiquitous handball courts, which have fascinated the artist for years. For this exhibition, Ancart will construct a **large-scale, playable painted concrete handball court in Downtown Brooklyn's Cadman Plaza Park**. He will paint the walls and floor of this two-sided structure that modifies the proportions of a traditional handball court, forming a new site-responsive composition. The mural painting will reference the court's playable boundary lines as well as the inadvertent abstract compositions created when other courts throughout the city are repaired and repainted to mask graffiti and weathering over time. Popularized by early 20<sup>th</sup> century immigrants to the United States, handball is among the most democratic sports, requiring nothing more than a small ball and a wall to play. Ancart's immersive painted sculpture brings a new context to this quintessential New York City game, merging contemporary art and recreational sport to create an engaging and inclusive experience. ***Harold Ancart: Subliminal Standard will be on view May 1, 2019 – March 1, 2020 at the north end of Cadman Plaza Park in Downtown Brooklyn.***

A leading voice of his generation, Ancart has pushed the limits of painting, with works that blur the line between sculpture, painting, and drawing. He's become known for his signature style of gestural jagged marks and graphic swaths of color that live somewhere between abstraction and representation. Ancart has created a series of smaller-scale painted plywood handball courts in preparation for this project. *Subliminal Standard* is the culmination of these works on a massive scale and Ancart's first public art commission in the United States. Its title poetically references the standard set of colors used to paint courts' area of play as well as the unintended abstract compositions and patterns created through their use and wear. *Subliminal Standard* is the first time that the artist will bring his studio practice to the public realm; in April, Ancart will paint directly onto a newly-constructed sixteen-foot-tall concrete court sculpture in Cadman Plaza Park enabling the public to see how a major public artwork is created.

"Harold Ancart paints in a highly physical and meditative manner, almost like an athlete engrossed in his sport," says **Public Art Fund Associate Curator Daniel S. Palmer**. "His work always has a forceful directness that captivates the viewer within his compelling compositions. By bringing his practice to a public space, we can now physically experience Ancart's immersive painted environment with the same vigor, as participants actively engaging through play."

The urban sport of American handball has been a source of inspiration for the artist since 2007, when Ancart moved to New York and began to notice these "democratic walls, waiting for murals," while wandering his Brooklyn neighborhood. The game became popular during the Great Depression as both a social activity and sport for the working and immigrant classes in New York City. Today, there are over 2,000 handball courts across all five boroughs, and the game remains as popular, accessible, and egalitarian as ever. Ancart sees public art and mural painting – which grew to prominence in Mexico and the United States around the same time – as handball's correlative in visual culture because of the way murals successfully transform vacant walls and bring beauty directly to the public. **Both a commanding sculpture and interactive installation, *Subliminal Standard* will be open for the public to enjoy and play upon for free during its 10-month run.**

**@PublicArtFund #SubliminalStandard**

## **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Harold Ancart (b. 1980, Brussels, Belgium) lives and works in New York. He received his MFA at L' École Nationale des Arts Visuels de la Cambre in 2007. His work was featured in a solo exhibition at The Menil Collection, Houston in 2016. In addition, he has participated in solo and group exhibitions around the world, including at the Centre Pompidou-Metz (2018); Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris (2017); the Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2013); and WIELS, Brussels (2012). Works by the artist are included in the permanent collections of numerous institutions worldwide, including the Fondation Beyeler, Basel; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC; Lenbachhaus, Munich; Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Denmark; The Menil Collection, Houston; Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; and Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.

## **VISITING THE EXHIBITION**

Cadman Plaza Park is located on the border of Brooklyn Heights and Downtown Brooklyn neighborhoods. *Subliminal Standard* is sited on the North Lawn (north of the Brooklyn War Memorial) and is bordered by Cadman Plaza East and Cadman Plaza West.

Park hours: 6:00am – 1:00am, daily  
Subways: A, C to High Street; 2, 3 to Clark Street; F to York Street

### **ABOUT PUBLIC ART FUND**

As the leader in its field, Public Art Fund brings dynamic contemporary art to a broad audience in New York City and beyond by mounting ambitious free exhibitions of international scope and impact that offer the public powerful experiences with art and the urban environment.

### **SUPPORT**

The Leadership Committee for *Subliminal Standard* is gratefully acknowledged, including C L E A R I N G, New York/Brussels and Jill & Peter Kraus. Support is also provided by David Zwirner and Gabe Schulman.

*Subliminal Standard* is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

Special thanks to the Office of the Mayor, the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President, NYC Parks, and the Cadman Plaza Conservancy.

Public Art Fund is supported by the generosity of individuals, corporations, and private foundations including lead support from Bloomberg Philanthropies, along with major support from Booth Ferris Foundation, the Charina Endowment Fund, The Marc Haas Foundation, Hartfield Foundation, Stavros Niarchos Foundation, the Donald A. Pels Charitable Trust, and The Silverweed Foundation.

Public Art Fund exhibitions and programs are also supported in part with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

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#### Image Credit

In-process concept rendering of *Harold Ancart: Subliminal Standard* at Cadman Plaza Park in Brooklyn, courtesy the artist. (Design and orientation are subject to change)