

PAHC / studio•lab

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE FOR FREEDOMS 50 STATE INITIATIVE UNVEILS A CHICAGO BILLBOARD BY ARTIST PAULA CROWN

Chicago, IL – PAHC / studio•lab is proud to announce the unveiling of a new public art installation by Paula Crown. The billboard-based piece, commissioned by For Freedoms as part of its 50 State Initiative, is both a confrontation and a call to action. The work, entitled *Thoughts and Prayers*, presents two firearms reflected in conflict under the flattened sentiment of a clichéd phrase. Crown confronts the viewer with a choice of action or indifference thereby urging citizens to “translate thoughts and prayers into policy.”

The 50 State Initiative is a nationwide public art campaign that features artist-designed billboards bearing thought-provoking messages about the country’s most pressing issues. For Freedoms believes art and artists play an important role in galvanizing society towards greater civic discourse with hopes of creating a pathway to a more representative and transparent government.

Thoughts and Prayers, sponsored by 21c Museum Hotel, will be on view at 11 W Illinois St. from September 27, 2018 through November 30, 2018.

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PAULA CROWN is an artist, advocate, and entrepreneur. She has spearheaded progressive initiatives in education, children’s health, environmentally sustainable business practices, and the arts. A cross-disciplinary artist, Crown’s work engages pencil to 3D printers. Since 2015, she has had solo exhibitions in New York, London, Miami, Aspen, and Dallas. Currently, her exhibition *Architecture of Memory* can be seen at the Venice Biennale. She is a trustee of the Museum of Modern Art, where she is a trustee and chairs the Committee on Education, and serves on the Aspen Institute Committee on the Arts. A former member of President Obama’s Presidential Committee on the Arts and Humanities, Crown is a principal at Henry Crown and Company in Chicago. www.paulacrown.com

FOR FREEDOMS started in 2016 as a platform for civic engagement, discourse, and direct action for artists in the United States. Inspired by Norman Rockwell’s 1943 paintings of the four universal freedoms articulated by Franklin Delano

Roosevelt in 1941—freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear—For Freedoms seeks to use art to deepen public discussions of civic issues and core values, and to clarify that citizenship in American society is deepened by participation, not by ideology. For Freedoms is part of a rich history of artists employing means of mass communication to provoke political discourse. For Freedoms believes art, and artists, play an important role in galvanizing our society towards a more representative and transparent government. For Freedoms was awarded the 2017 ICP Infinity Award for New Media and Online Platform. www.forfreedoms.org

ABOUT 21c MUSEUM HOTEL

21c was founded by Laura Lee Brown and Steve Wilson, contemporary art collectors and preservationists who are committed to expanding access to thought-provoking contemporary art. A multi-venue museum, each 21c property features exhibition space open free of charge to the public, combined with a boutique hotel and chef-driven restaurant. 21c presents a range of arts programming curated by Museum Director, Chief Curator Alice Gray Stites, including both solo and group exhibitions that reflect the global nature of art today, as well as site-specific, commissioned installations, and a variety of cultural events. The organization collaborates on arts initiatives with artists and organizations worldwide, including North Carolina Museum of Art, MASS MoCA, Contemporary Art Museum Houston, The Barnes Foundation, Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, Creative Capital Foundation, and others. Since opening in Louisville, KY in 2006, 21c Museum has presented nearly 100 exhibitions, including *Cuba Now!*; *Alter Ego: A Decade of Work by Anthony Goicolea*; *Hybridity: The New Frontier*; *Aftermath: Witnessing War, Countenancing Compassion*; *Seeing Now*; *Wild Card: The Art of Michael Combs*; *Dis-semblance: Projecting and Perceiving Identity*; *Albano Alfonso: Self-Portrait as Light*; *Pop Stars! Popular Culture and Contemporary Art*; *Labor&Materials*, *Fallen Fruit: The Practices of Everyday Life*; *The Future is Female*; and *Truth or Dare: A Reality Show*. For more information visit 21cMuseumHotels.com

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