



# The Burning Boards

*Glenn Kaino*

September 1, 2014 / 6:30 p.m. / World Chess Hall of Fame

## PROGRAM

6:00 p.m. *Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres*

6:25 p.m. *Opening Remarks*

6:30 p.m. *Games Begin*

## THE BURNING BOARDS

Developed for the Whitney Museum of American Art in 2007, Glenn Kaino's *The Burning Boards* explores concepts of winning through the medium of chess. Kaino uses the format of a unique competition to draw together friends from the worlds of art, chess, technology, and music. In the piece, thirty-two chess players, both expert and novice, compete in a dark room at sixteen closely-arranged tables. They use burning candles as chess pieces, imbuing the performance with a sense of danger and urgency.

Kaino has used indeterminacy to structure the performance, meaning that each participant becomes a co-creator of the larger spectacle, choosing his or her moves, but unable to control the outcome of their game or the performance as a whole. The lighting in the playing hall builds and diminishes over the course of the performance. "Burning boards" is sometimes defined as the act of using fire to level a playing field. Here, the advantages of experts over novices are leveled, and the value of skill diminishes as the element of chance increases. Unidentifiable pieces cannot be played, nor can those burned out or stuck to the board. Soon players realize that they are battling their shared situation—the board and pieces, not each other. They can better survive through mutual accommodation than through zero-sum aggression. Competition gives way to comity and onerous constraints lead to comical, collegial outcomes. The World Chess Hall of Fame's presentation of *The Burning Boards* is the third staging of the piece, which is intended to be performed anew rather than to be a static historical event.

## WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME

The World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF) is a nonprofit, collecting institution dedicated to enhancing public understanding and appreciation of art, history, and chess. The WCHOF is the only institution of its kind and offers a variety of programming to explore the dynamic relationship between the arts and chess, including educational outreach initiatives that provide context and meaning to the game and its continued cultural impact.

### CURRENTLY ON VIEW:

*Cage & Kaino: Pieces and Performances*

May 8–September 21, 2014

*Strategy by Design: Games by Michael Graves*

May 8–September 28, 2014

*A Memorable Life: A Glimpse into the Complex Mind of Bobby Fischer*

July 24, 2014–June 7, 2015

### COMING SOON:

*Living Like Kings*

October 9, 2014–April 26, 2015

## CHESS CLUB AND SCHOLASTIC CENTER OF SAINT LOUIS

The CCSCSL, located directly across the street from the WCHOF, focuses on teaching and promoting the game of chess. To learn more, visit [saintlouischessclub.org](http://saintlouischessclub.org).

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The World Chess Hall of Fame acknowledges Jeanne and Rex Sinquefield, whose generous support has made this event possible.

Special thanks to Glenn Kaino, Luke Lizalde, Larry List, Honor Fraser Gallery, Kavi Gupta Gallery, and the participants in *The Burning Boards*.

# PARTICIPANT PAIRINGS

<i>Maxime Vachier-Lagrave</i>	<i>Andre Escarameia</i>
<i>Jennifer Shahade</i>	<i>Martin Brief</i>
<i>Yasser Seirawan</i>	<i>Bradley Bailey</i>
<i>Maurice Ashley</i>	<i>Francis M. Naumann</i>
<i>John Donaldson</i>	<i>Mary Gould</i>
<i>Ben Finegold</i>	<i>Matt Strauss</i>
<i>Jean Hoffman</i>	<i>Bruce Burton</i>
<i>Rex Sinquefield</i>	<i>Sarah Robayo Sheridan</i>
<i>Hikaru Nakamura</i>	<i>Ben Kaplan</i>
<i>Lennart Ootes</i>	<i>Shannon Bailey</i>
<i>Chris Bird</i>	<i>Peter Manion</i>
<i>Levon Aronian</i>	<i>Paul Ha</i>
<i>Fabiano Caruana</i>	<i>Liliya Lifánova</i>
<i>Veselin Topalov</i>	<i>Larry List</i>
<i>Tony Rich</i>	<i>Christian Burton</i>
<i>Magnus Carlsen</i>	<i>Glenn Kaino</i>



4652 MARYLAND AVENUE, SAINT LOUIS, MO 63108

(314) 367-WCHF (9243) | [worldchesshof.org](http://worldchesshof.org)

HOURS: Mon (Q Boutique Only) 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Tues/Wed/Sat 10 a.m.–5 p.m.,  
Thurs/Fri 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Sun Noon–5 p.m.

Mind. Art. Experience.