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**World Chess Hall of Fame Exhibit
Explores Parallels between Chess and Humanity through Contemporary Artwork**

SAINT LOUIS (September 27, 2018)—A new exhibition exploring the parallels between chess and humanity, *Universal Turf: Peter Manion*, will open this fall at the World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF) on Friday, October 5, 2018.

Universal Turf is a conceptual, mixed media installation of new, never-before-seen works by Saint Louis-based artist Peter Manion, which challenge our ability to adapt and interact on a universal scale. Unlike traditional “do not touch” pieces in a typical gallery setting, Manion *encourages* viewers to handle, crumple and trample some of his works, which are dependent on visitor interaction to alter and change the artwork with time.

“This show is about keeping an open mind and being approachable, tolerant and inclusive,” Manion said. “The relationship between the materials and the audience is intended to transcend these types of interactions in our world.”

Prioritizing reflection over reaction, Manion creates an intriguing environment built from a variety of common, home improvement materials in lieu of traditional art mediums. The sculptural artwork, which is constructed of large, plaster-coated panels of dyed felt, which is creased, crushed and compromised repeatedly to produce a tactile, crackling effect, revealing a raw, brightly-colored substrate behind an infinity of web-like complexity and handmade texture. Patrons will enjoy sharing space with a variety of colorful sculptures, which are juxtaposed with a massive, seemingly fragile backdrop that spills off the gallery walls, interrupting the rigid floor. Visitors seeking a more intimate experience can connect with a series of organic drawings and designs.

“Manion’s body of work explores the social and personal spaces that shape our views, searching for touchstones of an often-forgotten fact—we are all connected in our humanity,” WCHOF Chief Curator Shannon Bailey said. “Just as a game of chess requires the ability to adapt to the ever-changing combinations of moves, we must be able to re-evaluate and consider other ways of thinking and feeling.”

Universal Turf: Peter Manion will be on display at the World Chess Hall of Fame from October 5, 2018, through March 24, 2019.

Media interviews with the curator can be scheduled by contacting Brian Flowers at (314) 243-1571 or brian.flowers@worldchesshof.org.

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About the World Chess Hall of Fame

The World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to building awareness of the cultural and artistic significance of chess. It opened on September 9, 2011, in the Central West End after moving from previous locations in New York; Washington, D.C.; and Florida. The WCHOF is located at 4652 Maryland Avenue, housed in an historic 15,900 square-foot residence-turned-business, featuring World Chess Hall of Fame inductees, United States Chess Hall of Fame inductees selected by the U.S. Chess Trust, displays of artifacts from the permanent collection and exhibitions highlighting the great players, historic games and rich cultural history of chess. The WCHOF partners with the Saint Louis Chess Club to provide innovative programming and outreach to local, national and international audiences.

About Peter Manion

Since receiving his Bachelor of Fine Arts from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and after a ten-year hiatus from working as an artist, Peter Manion has been pushing the creative envelope in the Saint Louis contemporary art world.

Manion's works hint at a background in drawing, and his emphatic strokes and subject matter offset a playful use of material, style and sense of humor. Manion's use of non-traditional methods, materials and practices gives his work an animative quality, lending variance and movement to what once was undisturbed, bringing the work closer to the idea of a living object.

Manion has been the recipient of multiple awards, including an Award of Excellence at Art Saint Louis and the Judge's Award of Merit at Kranzberg Arts Center. He has completed residencies at La Fragua in Belalcazar, Spain, and the Vermont Studio Center in Johnson, Vermont.

His most recent exhibitions include *La Fragua to Vermont: Works on Paper* at Houska Gallery, Saint Louis; *Post* at Folder Gallery, Ridgewood, NY; *Imagery of Chess: Saint Louis Artists* at the World Chess Hall of Fame, Saint Louis; *Heavy* at Macklind Appliance Studio Gallery, Saint Louis; and *En La Noche, El Convento de Santa Clara de la Columna del Siglo XV*, Belalcazar, Spain.

Financial assistance for this project has been provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency.

For more information, please visit the World Chess Hall of Fame online at www.worldchesshof.org or call (314) 367-9243 (WCHF).

Visit our social channels: Facebook (@WorldChessHOF), Twitter (@WorldChessHOF), Instagram (@worldchesshof), and YouTube ([/worldchesshof](https://www.youtube.com/worldchesshof))

Exhibition hashtag: #UniversalTurf
Manion's Instagram: @petermanion_art