

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**LILAC ARTS SERIES TO LAUNCH ABOARD THE S.S. LILAC  
Featuring Over 25 Artists in Group Exhibition**

**New York, New York, May 4, 2015** – The Lilac Preservation Project and MW Projects today announced the launch of the Lilac Arts Series, a contemporary art exhibition aboard the historic museum ship Lilac. The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Lilac was built in 1933 and is America’s only surviving steam-powered lighthouse tender. The Lilac is currently being restored as a unique vehicle for maritime education and community activities and is berthed at Hudson River Park’s Pier 25 in New York City.

The Lilac Arts Series will run from May 19 to August 15, 2015 and will focus on three themes inspired by the ship’s story – “Steam”, “Work + Labor” and “Restoration/Reinvention“. The visual art exhibition will feature the work of over 25 artists within the ship’s unique spaces, including several site-specific installations. In addition to the exhibition, the Lilac will host performances, artist talks, film screenings, readings, community activities and educational events. The schedule of events is available on the Lilac Arts Series website at [www.lilacarts.org](http://www.lilacarts.org). The exhibition and events are free and open to the public.

Lilac Preservation Project President, Mary Habstritt, commented, “We are thrilled to sponsor the Lilac Arts Series as part of our mission to introduce new audiences to our historic ship and especially to provide space to showcase work inspired by this unique vessel and our efforts to preserve her.” Melinda Wang, founder of MW Projects and organizer of the Lilac Arts Series, added, “Through the exhibition and event programming, we aim to activate the ship’s spaces and encourage artists and audiences to be part of the Lilac’s story. We are very excited to work with emerging artists and art groups to create a new art destination in New York City.”

Artists and collaborators include Gisli Bergmann, Alex Branch, Clakula, Jillian Clark, Jim D’Amato, Kara Daving, Willem Davisz, Brendan Fernandes, Basia Goszczynska, Kerry Hassler, Rhys Hecox, Kyle Hittmeier, Ryan Josey, Karen Lee, Aaron McDonald, Jackie Mock, J.R. Narrows, Amanda Nedham, Nisa Ojalvo, Lavinia Roberts, Saul Robbins, Barry Rosenthal, Aaron Schraeter, Chad Stayrook, Ebbe Sweet, Hilary Wang, Karin Waskiewicz, Jenny Wong-Stanley, AMAH Industries, The Difficult To Name Reading Series, Green:Inspired:Art, Horyou, Nouveau Classical Project, PointB and The Secret Opera.

**Press preview:** Tuesday, May 19, 2015, 5-6pm

**Opening reception:** Tuesday, May 19, 2015, 6-9pm

**Hours:** May 23 to August 15, 2015: Thursdays, 4-7pm; Saturdays, 2-7pm; Sundays 2-7pm and additional hours for special events

**Free and open to the public.**

**Location:** S.S. Lilac, Hudson River Park's Pier 25 (West Street, cross at N. Moore Street), New York, New York

### **About the Lilac Preservation Project**

The Lilac Preservation Project is a non-profit organization whose mission is to restore the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Lilac as a unique vehicle for maritime education and community activities. The Lilac is a 1933 lighthouse tender that once carried supplies to lighthouses and maintained buoys for the U.S. Lighthouse Service and the U.S. Coast Guard. Decommissioned in 1972, the Lilac is now a historic museum ship berthed at Hudson River Park's Pier 25 in the Tribeca neighborhood of New York City. The Lilac regularly hosts free exhibitions, tours and educational programs. For more information, visit [www.lilacpreservationproject.org](http://www.lilacpreservationproject.org).

### **About MW Projects**

MW Projects is a cultural production and art advisory firm dedicated to bringing contemporary art to historic sites, non-traditional venues and liminal spaces. It works with emerging and established artists to transform spaces and encourage dialogue about contemporary art and culture. For more information, visit [www.mw-projects.com](http://www.mw-projects.com).

Special thanks to Alix Hornyman, Ashley Martin and Julia Zimmerman.

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