



Art of Elan Kicks Off 2022 with Long-Awaited Concerts by Guest Artist Johnny Gandelsman

For Immediate Release

January 20, 2022 - Art of Elan continues their celebratory 15th Season by presenting two special performances with Brooklyn-based violinist Johnny Gandelsman. The “third time is sure to be the charm” for this adventurous organization that has always had its finger on the pulse in regard to innovative musicians and unique performance venues. These twice-cancelled performances (due to Covid) will be presented this February at Institute of Contemporary Art Central in Balboa Park and The JAI cabaret space in The Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center, La Jolla.

The New Yorker has called the Grammy Award-winning Johnny Gandelsman “revelatory” in concert. In response to a recent presentation of Bach’s Cello Suites, [The New York Times](#) said, “His approach is singular: feather-light and rooted in dance and folk music. He treats the suites as six enclosed spaces, tracing long arcs through each one, the sections blurring as he plays them through without pausing.”

[The Boston Globe](#) reported, “Passages that even the best cellists negotiate with lumbering effort, Gandelsman sauntered through with casual ease. This was an exquisitely personal vision of Bach, all radical sincerity and glinting light. The audience sat rapt for nearly two hours, until it rose as one.”

As a founding member of the Brooklyn Rider string quartet and a former member of the world-renowned Silkroad Ensemble, Johnny has closely worked with such luminaries as Bela Fleck, Yo-Yo Ma and Mark Morris, among many others.

According to co-founder and Artistic Director, Kate Hatmaker, “It’s a real thrill to have Johnny in San Diego for these two highly compelling and contrasting programs. ‘This is America’ features such a diverse lineup of artists and sound worlds: everything from hip-hop to folk music to more classical pieces. The complete *Bach Cello Suites* the following night is almost mind-blowing. Johnny is truly one of the most versatile and thoughtful artists out there right now and we cannot wait to share his talent with our San Diego audiences.”

“This is America” with Johnny Gandelsman | Institute for Contemporary Art (ICA) Central, Balboa Park | February 13, 2022, 7pm, doors open for exhibition viewing of “Gabriel Rico: Unity in Variety” at 6pm

In response to the pandemic and societal turbulence of the last two years, Grammy-Award winning violinist and producer Johnny Gandelsman has created “This Is America,” a new commissioning and recording project featuring over twenty compelling works for solo violin, written by American and U.S.-based artists. Commissioned by twenty different arts organizations spread throughout the U.S., including Art of Elan, “This is America” celebrates America’s rich cultural tapestry and its myriad perspectives, thoughts and ideas, offering a vivid counterpoint to the idea that this land can be understood through a singular, dominant point of view. In partnership with the Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy of Music, Art of Elan is delighted to have commissioned Adeliia Faizullina to compose one of the works for this program. Each composition in the anthology reflects on the current state of American society in a personal and intimate way, looking through an unflinching lens at universal topics like separation, loneliness, hope and love.

Guests are encouraged to arrive early to view the exhibition on view, “Gabriel Rico: Unity in Variety,” the first solo show in California of the contemporary Mexican conceptualist artist. The artist is known for his sculptures, installations, and poetic assemblages that draw on contemporary culture, nature, science, physics, philosophy, and history.

BaCH @ The JAI | *Bach Cello Suites* | The JAI, 7600 Fay Ave, La Jolla, CA 92037 | February 14, 2022, 7pm concert, pre-concert talk at 6pm

Art of Elan returns to the JAI cabaret space at The Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center to present Johnny Gandelsman in an epic 2-hour performance of the complete cello suites by J. S. Bach, remarkably performed on violin. This opportunity to “fall in love with Bach,” rescheduled twice due to Covid, is part of Art of Elan’s BaCH (Beyond a Concert Hall) Initiative and includes a special pre-concert talk in the Wu Tsai Courtyard with cellist and Baroque specialist Alex Greenbaum.

For more information and ticket links visit <https://artofelan.org/concerts>

About Art of Elan

Known for its collaborative spirit, Art of Elan has been pioneering unique events and bringing exciting classical music to diverse audiences for the last 14 years through innovative partnerships and bi-national initiatives that have cultivated curious audiences on both sides of the border. Its consistent track record of sold-out performances stems from its commitment to commissioning new work, collaborating with world class artists and composers, programming engaging and thought-provoking concerts, and expanding its impact in the region through thoughtful community engagement programs. By drawing inspiration from the word élan, which represents vigor, style, and spirit, Art of Elan continues to engage and energize audiences in new ways. www.artofelan.org