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**World Chess Hall of Fame Exhibition Celebrates the Legacy of World-Renowned Artist  
Keith Haring**

*The exhibition is the largest, solo collection of Haring's work ever shown in Saint Louis*

SAINT LOUIS (November 13, 2020) - The World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF) will host an opening reception for its newest exhibition, *Keith Haring: Radiant Gambit*, celebrating the legacy of world-renowned artist Keith Haring, on November 19, 2020, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The reception will include bottled cocktails by [Brennan's](#) on the WCHOF outdoor chess patio, timed curator-led tours of all three exhibitions and a virtual tour on the museum's [website](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube channels](#).

[Keith Haring: Radiant Gambit](#) features artwork by Haring, a world-renowned artist known for his art that proliferated in the New York subway system during the early 1980s. The exhibition includes a never-before-seen private collection of Haring's works and photographs of the artist, bespoke street art chess sets from [Purling London](#) and newly-commissioned pieces by Saint Louis artists, all paying homage to the late icon.

"The World Chess Hall of Fame is honored to present the art of Keith Haring in this exhibition, which includes work spanning the entirety of his career," said WCHOF Chief Curator Shannon Bailey. "Haring's influence, even though he passed away over 30 years ago, is still prevalent to this day. He believed art was for everybody, just as the World Chess Hall of Fame believes chess is for everybody."

The two-floor exhibition will feature 130 works, including a never-before-seen private collection of Keith Haring's work via [Pan Art Connections, Inc.](#), loans from the [Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum at Washington University](#) in Saint Louis and photographs of Haring by [Allan Tannebaum](#). Two artists, [LA2 \(Angel Ortiz\)](#) who befriended Haring as a teen and collaborated with the artist for six years, and [Thierry Noir](#), credited as the first artist to paint on the Berlin Wall, will have hand-painted chess sets in this show, in addition to [Sickboy](#) and [Darren John](#), two UK-based street artists. Two commercially manufactured posthumous chess sets featuring artwork by Haring will also be on display.

As part of *Radiant Gambit*, the WCHOF also invited four Saint Louis artists ([Dail Chambers](#), [Stan Chisholm](#), [Edo Rosenblith](#) and [Peat EYEZ Wollaeger](#)) to contribute to the exhibition. They took inspiration from the art and life of Keith Haring and the game of chess to create a diverse array of artwork, ranging from murals to an illuminated chess set. The exhibition is supported by the [Missouri Arts Council](#), a state agency.

"Since the World Chess Hall of Fame opened in Saint Louis in 2011, we have always showcased and celebrated Saint Louis and regional artists," said Bailey. "All four of these artists have reinterpreted chess and Haring's messaging into original, thought-provoking work that will become part of the World Chess Hall of Fame's permanent collection."

*Keith Haring: Radiant Gambit* will be on view through May 16, 2021. Due to overwhelming demand, an additional reception will take place on December 3, 2020, in addition to timed curator tours throughout the exhibition cycle. Guests may sign up in advance for the duplicate reception by emailing [events@worldchesshof.org](mailto:events@worldchesshof.org). To learn more about the exhibition or to find out more about the [WCHOF's safety procedures and guest guidelines](#), visit [www.worldchesshof.org](http://www.worldchesshof.org). Media interviews with the exhibitions' artists and curators can be coordinated by contacting Brian Flowers at [brian.flowers@worldchesshof.org](mailto:brian.flowers@worldchesshof.org) or (314) 243-1571.

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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 Miami. Housed in a historic 15,900 square-foot residence-turned-business in Saint Louis' Central West End neighborhood, the WCHOF features World Chess Hall of Fame inductees, United States Chess Hall of Fame inductees selected by the U.S. Chess Trust, 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 Keith Haring**

Keith Haring was born on May 4, 1958, in Reading, Pennsylvania. At an early age he began drawing and was inspired by cartoon drawings especially from Dr. Seuss, Charles Schultz, and Walt Disney. In 1976, he went to the Ivy School of Professional Art in Pittsburgh to study commercial graphic arts and dropped out after two semesters. In 1978, he had his first solo exhibition in Pittsburgh and then moved to New York City and enrolled in the School of Visual Arts.

In New York City, he became enamored with the booming alternative art community that was thriving outside of the museum work in the subway system, abandoned buildings, and streets downtown. According to the Keith Haring Foundation website: "In 1980, Haring found a highly effective medium that allowed him to communicate with the wider audience he desired when he noticed the unused advertising panels covered with matte black paper in a subway station. He began to create drawings in white chalk upon these blank paper panels throughout the subway system. Between 1980 and 1985, Haring produced hundreds of these public drawings in rapid rhythmic lines, sometimes creating as many as forty "subway drawings" in one day. This seamless flow of images became familiar to New York commuters, who often would stop to engage the artist when they encountered him at work. The subway became, as Haring said, a "laboratory" for working out his ideas and experimenting with his simple lines."

He was in numerous group and solo shows for the next nine years and became internationally recognized. In 1986, Haring opened up the "Pop Shop" in Soho, where he sold a variety of items with his images on them to allow more accessibility to his work at a low cost. Much of his work dealt with social messages and he created dozens of public artworks for charities, children's hospitals, and orphanages. He worked with children extensively and would hold workshops to teach children how to draw around schools in New York City.

In 1988, Keith Haring was diagnosed with AIDS and immediately set up the Keith Haring Foundation to provide funding for AIDS research and organizations and children's programs as well as to promote his legacy. He died of AIDS-related complications on February 16, 1990, at the age of 31 in New York City.

## **Connect with Us**

Learn more about the WCHOF online at [www.worldchesshof.org](http://www.worldchesshof.org).

Engage with the @WorldChessHOF on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#), with the exhibition hashtags, #HaringChess and #RadiantGambit.

Follow us on [Spotify](#) and listen to our [Keith Haring: Radiant Gambit](#) playlist.