



For Immediate Release

## HAROLD ANCART TO BUILD A NEW PAINTED SCULPTURE IN CADMAN PLAZA PARK, BROOKLYN

### INSPIRED BY NEW YORK CITY'S HANDBALL COURTS OPENING MAY 1, 2019



***Harold Ancart: Subliminal Standard***

**May 1, 2019 – March 1, 2020**

**Cadman Plaza Park, Brooklyn**

**(North Lawn between Cadman Plaza East and Cadman Plaza West)**

**Press Preview: Tuesday, April 30, 9:30am**

**Cadman Plaza Park, Brooklyn**

**For more information: [press@publicartfund.org](mailto:press@publicartfund.org)**

**April 5, 2019, NEW YORK, NY—** On May 1, **Public Art Fund** will present *Subliminal Standard*, an interactive new commission by Brooklyn-based, Belgian-born artist **Harold Ancart**. The artist has constructed a large scale painted concrete sculpture inspired by New York City's ubiquitous handball courts, which have fascinated Ancart for years because of their unexpected relationship to the history of abstraction. The painting will reference the traditional boundary lines of the court and the inadvertent abstract compositions created when city courts are repaired and repainted to mask graffiti and weathering over time. Popularized by early 20<sup>th</sup> century immigrants to the United States, handball is among the most democratic sports, requiring nothing more than a small ball and a wall to play. The handball court is also the only

type of playground that offers a freestanding double-sided wall which, according to the artist, “offers a unique possibility to show painting in a public space.” Ancart’s immersive sculpture will create a place for interaction, while bringing to light the ever-present painterly qualities that inherently exist in the structure of the handball court. **Harold Ancart: Subliminal Standard will be on view May 1, 2019 – March 1, 2020 at the north end of Cadman Plaza Park in Downtown Brooklyn.**

A leading voice of his generation, Ancart has pushed the limits of painting, with works that blur the line between sculpture, painting, and drawing. He’s become known for his expressive gestural marks that live somewhere between abstraction and representation. Ancart developed a series of small wooden sculptures that illustrate the relationship between handball courts, playgrounds, and abstraction. These were made, in part, as preparation for *Subliminal Standard*. Created specifically for this location, the large painted sculpture at Cadman Plaza Park draws on the forms of these courts. The title of the work poetically references the unintended abstract compositions and patterns created through their use and wear in relation to the standard lines that mark the limits of the playgrounds.

*Subliminal Standard* is Ancart’s first public art commission in the United States, as well as the first time that the artist will bring his studio practice to the public realm; in April, Ancart will paint directly onto the newly-constructed sixteen-foot-tall, 2,090-square-foot surface of the concrete court sculpture in Cadman Plaza Park enabling the public to see how a major public artwork is created. This site-responsive composition will invite all to engage with painting in a new way.

“Harold Ancart paints in a highly physical and meditative manner, almost like an athlete engrossed in his sport,” says **Public Art Fund Associate Curator Daniel S. Palmer**. “However, like David Hammons’s *Higher Goals* in Cadman Plaza in 1986, which was not only about basketball, Harold’s sculpture isn’t limited to the sport of handball but is also about creating a space for social interaction. It is a place for others to be in dialogue as participants actively engage with painting by immersing themselves in it.”

American handball courts have been a source of inspiration for the artist since 2007, when Ancart moved to New York and began wandering his Brooklyn neighborhood. The game became popular during the Great Depression as both a social activity and sport for the working and immigrant classes in New York City. Today, there are over 2,000 handball courts across all five boroughs, and the game remains as popular, accessible, and egalitarian as ever. Ancart sees public art and mural painting – which grew to prominence in Mexico and the United States around the same time – as handball’s correlative in visual culture because of the way murals successfully transform vacant walls and bring beauty directly to the public. **Both a commanding sculpture and interactive installation, *Subliminal Standard* will be open for the public to enjoy and engage with for free during its 10-month run.**

**@PublicArtFund #SubliminalStandard**

## **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Harold Ancart (b. 1980, Brussels, Belgium) lives and works in New York. He received his MFA at L’ École Nationale des Arts Visuels de la Cambre in 2007. His work was featured in a solo exhibition at The Menil Collection, Houston in 2016. In addition, he has participated in solo and group exhibitions around the world, including at the Centre Pompidou-Metz (2018); Musée d’Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris (2017); the Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2013); and WIELS, Brussels (2012). Works by the artist are included in the permanent collections of numerous institutions worldwide, including the Fondation Beyeler, Basel; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden,

Washington, DC; Lenbachhaus, Munich; Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Denmark; The Menil Collection, Houston; Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; and Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.

### **VISITING THE EXHIBITION**

Cadman Plaza Park is located on the border of Brooklyn Heights and Downtown Brooklyn neighborhoods. *Subliminal Standard* is sited on the North Lawn (north of the Brooklyn War Memorial) and is bordered by Cadman Plaza East and Cadman Plaza West.

Park hours: 6:00am – 1:00am, daily

Subways: A, C to High Street; 2, 3 to Clark Street; F to York Street

### **ABOUT PUBLIC ART FUND**

As the leader in its field, Public Art Fund brings dynamic contemporary art to a broad audience in New York City and beyond by mounting ambitious free exhibitions of international scope and impact that offer the public powerful experiences with art and the urban environment.

### **SUPPORT**

The Leadership Committee for *Subliminal Standard* is gratefully acknowledged, including Jeff Rosa & Elizabeth Satterwhite; C L E A R I N G, New York/Brussels; Jill & Peter Kraus; and anonymous. Generous support is also provided by Fern & Lenard Tessler, David Zwirner, Sebastian Hennecke, Gabe Schulman, and Rachel & Sam Shikiar.

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### **MEDIA CONTACTS**

Kellie Honeycutt | 212.223.7810 | khoneycutt@publicartfund.org | PublicArtFund.org

Sandrine Milet | 212.223.7074 | smilet@publicartfund.org | PublicArtFund.org

Allegra Thoresen | 212 223 7807 | athoresen@publicartfund.org | PublicArtFund.org

[Image Credit](#) In-process concept rendering of *Harold Ancart: Subliminal Standard* at Cadman Plaza Park in Brooklyn, courtesy the artist. (Design and orientation are subject to change)