

# Burroughs-Chapin Art Museum in Myrtle Beach, SC, Presents Major LEGO® Art Exhibit

The Franklin G. Burroughs-Simeon B. Chapin Art Museum in Myrtle Beach, SC, will present *The Art of the Brick®*, a one-of-a-kind LEGO® art exhibition by New York-based artist Nathan Sawaya, on view from June 11 through Sept. 10, 2016.

The exhibition is one of the largest and most popular art exhibits touring the globe. CNN hailed *The Art of the Brick®* as one of the top twelve “must-see exhibitions in the world.” “This year alone, we’ve visited Australia, South Africa and Taiwan,” said Sawaya. “We are thrilled to be bringing this collection to Myrtle Beach, SC.”

Like most young kids, Sawaya started playing with LEGO at a young age. But unlike most kids, Sawaya never stopped building, creating and exploring his own imagination. The result has solidified his place in pop culture history and he is making an indelible mark on the art world as well. The award-winning artist has catapulted the iconic LEGO brick into an art medium all its own, transforming this construction toy into awe-inspiring and thought provoking sculptures.

The centerpiece of Sawaya’s collection of sculptures, as well as arguably his most famous piece of artwork, is entitled *Yellow*, a LEGO torso of a man ripping open his chest while yellow plastic bricks cascade out of the open chest cavity. Sawaya has made a name for himself by creating out of LEGO exacting replicas of the human form in various states of emotion, including anger, love, depression and joy.

Concurrently on display at the Franklin G. Burroughs-Simeon B. Chapin Art Museum and for the run of the exhibition will be Sawaya’s unique multi-media collaboration with award-winning Australian photographer Dean West, entitled *In Pieces*. The two artists spent years traveling and working together to blend their



“Yellow” by Nathan Sawaya

crafts resulting in the *In Pieces* collection of visually stunning hyper-realistic images that are exhibited with corresponding and complimentary three-dimensional LEGO sculptures.

“I use LEGO bricks as my medium because I enjoy seeing people’s reactions to artwork created from something with which they are familiar. Everyone can relate to it since it is a toy that many children have at home. I want to elevate this simple plaything to a place that it has never been before. I also appreciate the cleanliness of the medium. The right angles. The distinct lines. As so often in life, it is a matter of perspective. Up close, the shape of the brick is distinctive. But from a distance, those right angles and distinct lines change to curves,” Sawaya said.

Nathan Sawaya is an acclaimed New York-based artist who creates awe-inspiring artwork out of a toy. His art focuses on large-scale sculptures using only LEGO® bricks. Sawaya was the first artist to ever take LEGO® into the art world and his touring exhibition, *The Art of the Brick®*, has entertained and inspired millions of art lovers and enthusiasts from Australia, Taiwan, Singapore, China and around the world. Originally from Oregon, Sawaya’s childhood dreams were always fun and creative. He drew cartoons, wrote stories,

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*Blackballed, 2015*

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