Remaking the Stars: CONSTELLATION Lights
Sculpture installation and works on view by interdisciplinary artist, Ye Qin Zhu
In Collaboration with Beam Center and Bronx International High School
at Andrew Freedman Home

(Bronx, NY - May 2022) – We are pleased to announce the opening of “Remaking the Stars: CONSTELLATION Lights,” a two-part exhibition featuring a survey of past works by interdisciplinary artist Ye Qin Zhu (b. 1986, Taishan, China) and the grand opening of Zhu's sculpture series "CONSTELLATION Lights," created in collaboration with Beam Center and students from Bronx International High School, on view at Andrew Freedman Home (AFH) from May 21 through June 18, 2022. This exhibition is the first in a series of exhibitions and programs by Beam Center and AFH, exploring notions of community, togetherness, creation and recreation through the lens of interdisciplinary arts and collaboration. Walter Puryear, Senior Executive Director of AFH, states that "Andrew Freedman Home provides a 'safe space' for artists to experiment with their process, and we couldn't be more thrilled about this collaboration with Beam Center and AFH's new artist in residence, Ye Qin Zhu, whose work represents the intergenerational programming we champion in the Bronx community." The opening reception for "Remaking the Stars: CONSTELLATION Lights" by Ye Qin Zhu takes place on Saturday, May 21, 2022, at Andrew Freedman Home beginning with a toast to the students from Bronx International High School from 1 -2 pm and a public opening from 2-4pm. Andrew Freedman Home is located at 1125 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY. A percentage of the proceeds from art sales will be donated to Beam Center and AFH.

The interior exhibition "Remaking the Stars," in the Princess Room at AFH, features the work of Ye Qin Zhu showcasing a survey of two and three-dimensional paintings varying in scale and breadth juxtaposed against photographic documentation from Zhu's social art practice and past community engagement work. At the heart of Zhu’s work is his painting practice. In the studio is where he digs deep to derive his core values, an important one of which is to find healing. From there, he bridges the discipline of painting to all the other forms.

On view in the AFH Sculpture Garden, "CONSTELLATION Lights" is a suite of six sound and light sculptures conceptualized and designed by Zhu and built by Bronx International High School students. The first iteration of this intergenerational and interactive public art project was initiated by NYC’s youth at Beam Center’s day camp on Governors Island, Beam Camp City, in the summer of 2021. “CONSTELLATION Lights” is a new iteration of the original sculptures revisited in collaboration with Bronx International High School, featuring solar-powered lanterns designed and wired by the students. Inspired by the concept of asteroseismology - which shows that stars sound like ringing bells - the six sculptures are placed throughout the Sculpture Garden, creating a constellation of ringing bells. Brian Cohen, Beam Center’s Executive Director, says of the exhibition and installation: “There could be no better project than CONSTELLATION Lights to inaugurate Beam Center’s collaboration with Andrew Freedman Home. We
share a commitment to cultivating boundary-less creative spaces that support community and individual expression and growth."

**About the Artist, Ye Qin Zhu**
Ye Qin Zhu is an interdisciplinary artist whose practice encompasses painting, public art, and social practice. He earned his BFA from Cooper Union in 2010 and his MFA from Yale University in 2020. Zhu was raised by parents who met in the factories of Shenzhen city. His family immigrated to NYC in 1990. He grew up in a house with a vegetable garden in the cosmopolitan neighborhood of Sunset Park, Brooklyn. These histories propel him. Their currents—manufacture and gardening, belonging and displacement, anarchy and citizenry, spirit and material—are split modes that fold over, burrowing and resurfacing. Through art-making, Zhu is in conversation with their movements.

Drawing from his personal experiences of home-seeking, Zhu finds common ground for solace through image-making and storytelling. He insists on bridging the material and spiritual; his proposition is that matter, in its manipulation, has an alchemical relation to moods or states-of-mind, and vice versa. Zhu's art depicts how beliefs can travel, become embodied or projected, through internalizing and externalizing, from one body to another—the exchange of mood and matter, and matter and mood. Wounds and remedies may travel these routes. From this root relation, Zhu seeks pathways towards personal, ancestral, and social healing.

Zhu's work has been featured in solo and group shows in New York, London, Los Angeles, and Paris. He is currently designing and creating the *Memorial for Healthcare Workers* for Yale–New Haven Hospital and is on the team that spearheaded the *New Haven COVID-19 Memorial*, working with the city's Department of Cultural Affairs, residents, community and organization leaders. His work has been collected by prominent public and private collections and featured in leading publications such as The *New York Times*, *Hyperallergic*, *Art News*, and *The New Haven Times*. He lives and works in Brooklyn, NY and New Haven, CT.

**Andrew Freedman Home**
Andrew Freedman Home (AFH) is a contemporary cultural space for interdisciplinary and intergenerational artists, artisans, and entrepreneurs based in the heart of Bronx, NY. The mission of AFH is to create innovative solutions and structures for community development. Initially started as an artist collective for Bronx based artists, AFH is now structured as an Artist Residency, Incubator, and Artisan Space. AFH intends to reconnect disparate international communities by utilizing technology, art, and entrepreneurship. By exploring immersive and experimental approaches to interdisciplinary art process and creation, AFH has a holistic vision of empowering artists, focusing on public engagement, activism, and social change.

**Beam Center**
Beam Center is a Brooklyn-based, not-for-profit organization that supports self-directed growth in young people through ambitious, collaborative project-making. We support and celebrate young people as producers of learning, culture and change who take bold steps towards meaningful futures and help guide compassionate, equitable, and vibrant communities. Beam Center believes all young people are capable of spectacular things and has been proving it for 17 years. Our programming takes place at Beam Camp in New Hampshire, at Beam Camp City on Governors Island, and in communities across NYC.
Alaina Simone Inc
Alaina Simone Inc is an art advocacy that supports the career development of interdisciplinary artists in the areas of curating, logistics, marketing, sales direction and consulting.

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