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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 1, 2020

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Press Release #20-05

NYC Department of Sanitation Employees Share Artistic Talent in a Virtual Art Show

Kicks off Voting for Audience Choice Award with Cash Prize from Mack Trucks

The Sanitation Foundation, the official nonprofit of the New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY), has launched its' first-ever digital art exhibition, sponsored by **Mack Trucks**. To show the humanity and individuality of the DSNY workforce, the exhibition showcases the diverse artwork of DSNY employees in various media, including photography, sculpture, painting, and more. This virtual, pop-up exhibition provides a glimpse into the future of a Sanitation Museum -- one of the key initiatives of the Foundation. The art exhibition is viewable at: www.dsnycartshow.com.

The Sanitation Foundation also today kicks off the first Audience-Choice Award, in which the public can cast their vote for their favorite work of art with the winner receiving a cash prize. Voting closes on November 1st, 2020. Voters may [vote for their pick here](#).

Since its launch in 2016, much of the Sanitation Foundation's work to reduce waste in New York has been done through artistic collaborations, including with fashion designer Heron Preston and "zero food waste" culinary star Michael Anthony.

"Now is the time to build on the artistic foundation from previous collaborative projects and highlight the talent within our own NYC Sanitation Community," said **Julie Raskin, Executive Director of the Sanitation Foundation**. "The people who clean our streets and pick up our trash are some of the most fascinating New Yorkers, and this exhibit shows a side of them that many people never see."

A jury composed of critics from both inside and outside DSNY judged the art and selected three winning pieces from nearly 60 submissions. The winners were awarded a cash prize made possible by Mack Trucks. The winners included:

- First Place: Machinist Bernard Klevickas, titled *bluwaveforms*;
- Second Place: Bronx East 11 Sanitation Worker James Tangredi, titled *Not So Grouchy!*; and
- Third Place: Brooklyn 5 Sanitation Worker Cody Nelson, titled *Snapchat Medusa*.

“Without my job with DSNY I would be a starving artist,” said **first-place winner Bernard Klevickas**. “Until now, my art has been something separate from my career. I feel so honored and proud to be part of the DSNY family and that this show seemed like a great way to bring these parts of my life together.”

Klevickas’ day job is as a machinist at the East 91st Street Marine Transfer Station, maintaining, repairing, and replacing equipment that allows New York City’s refuse to be exported to regional landfills and waste-to-energy facilities. Outside of his 6:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. workday, he is an accomplished artist with work featured in Materials for the Arts, the Whitney Museum, Governor’s Island, and more. His full portfolio can be [found here](#). Klevickas has also been commissioned by the Sanitation Foundation to create a memorial sculpture in memory of the Sanitation Workers who have fallen from COVID-19.

“As the DSNY Artist in Residence for more than four decades, it is thrilling to send my best wishes to each of the DSNY employees who have participated in this virtual Art Show and my congratulations to each of the award winners! Sanitation is something else!,” said **DSNY’s Artist in Residence Mierle Laderman Ukeles**.

“Over the years, I have been privileged to learn how many different kinds of skills and talents—often surprising—that DSNY employees possess, how multi-dimensional and how well-rounded so many are,” added Laderman Ukeles. “This is revealed in their art, and the Department’s appreciation is revealed in its support for this exhibition. This support will continue to grow as we head toward creating the DSNY Museum. I look forward to showing works of art together, when we have an in-person exhibition in a gallery in 2021.”

A core goal of the **Sanitation Foundation** is to create the first-ever Museum of Sanitation, to celebrate DSNY’s essential services for New York City, educate the public about waste and recycling, and promote environmental stewardship. The organization is currently working with **Chora Creative** on the first phase of strategic planning, including developing a mission and statement of purpose that will inform further market research and exhibition development. While it plans for a future museum, the Foundation also holds a variety of pop-up exhibits throughout the year. To donate or get involved, [visit here](#).

DSNY and Mack Trucks have a long history of working together. Mack trucks make up the vast majority of the heavy-duty fleet, which includes everything from refuse and recycling collection to snow removal.

“DSNY and Mack Trucks have a shared passion for supporting the community of New York City,” said **John Walsh, Mack Trucks vice president of marketing**. “With Mack’s founding 120 years ago in New York City, it’s exciting to announce our support for the Sanitation Foundation, adding another dimension to the long-time relationship between DSNY and Mack Trucks.”

Sanitation Foundation and **Mack Trucks** plan to continue their collaboration through the sponsorship of an in-person art exhibition in the fall of 2021. In addition to employee works of art, the collection will include works from DSNY Artist-in-Residence Mierle Laderman Ukeles, pieces from

retired Sanitation Worker Nelson Molina's *Treasures in the Trash* collection, and a truck display from **Mack Trucks'** green fleet of refuse trucks.

About the Sanitation Foundation

The [Sanitation Foundation](#), founded in 2016, is the official nonprofit organization of the New York City Department of Sanitation. Supported by private funding and in-kind donations, the Foundation leverages non-traditional strategies to promote sustainability and advance the essential services of Sanitation employees.

The Sanitation Foundation is supported, in part, by grants from The New York Community Trust, the United Way of New York City, the Closed Loop Foundation and the St. Patrick's Day Foundation NYC. We'd like to extend our deepest appreciation to all donors and friends of the Sanitation Foundation, who make our programs possible.

About Mack Trucks

Dedicated to durability, reliability and meeting the needs of customers, Mack Trucks has provided purpose-built transportation solutions for more than a century. Today, Mack is one of North America's largest producers of heavy-duty trucks, and Mack® trucks are sold and serviced through an extensive distribution network in more than 45 countries. Mack trucks, diesel engines and transmissions sold in North America are assembled in the United States. Mack manufacturing locations are certified to the internationally recognized ISO 9001 standard for quality, ISO 14001 standard for environmental management systems and OHSAS 18001 standard for health and safety management systems. Mack is also a proud sponsor of Share the Road, an American Trucking Associations' public information campaign aimed at enhancing the safety of our nation's roadways. **For more information about Mack, visit our website at www.macktrucks.com** Mack Trucks is part of the Volvo Group, which is driving prosperity through transport solutions by offering trucks, buses, construction equipment, power solutions for marine and industrial applications, financing and services that increase customer uptime and productivity. Founded in 1927, the Volvo Group is committed to shaping the future landscape of sustainable transport and infrastructure solutions. The Volvo Group is headquartered in Gothenburg, Sweden, employs more than 100,000 people and serves customers in 190 markets. In 2019, net sales amounted to about \$45.7 billion. Volvo shares are listed on Nasdaq Stockholm. For more information, please visit www.volvogroup.com.