

WATERFIRE PROVIDENCE

– CREATIVELY TRANSFORMING OUR CITY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Monday, May 1, 2023

Media Contact

Laura A. Duclos, Director of Creative Services

laura@waterfire.org

401.280.3220



Pencil Gun Sculpture by One Gun Gone

Announcing the Opening of *Merge*, a One Gun Gone Exhibition at the WaterFire Arts Center

May 4 – May 28, 2023

Opening Night: Thursday, May 4, from 6-9 pm

Providence, RI The WaterFire Arts Center (WFAC), a multi-use arts venue, located at 475 Valley Street in Providence, RI, is pleased to announce *Merge*, a One Gun Gone exhibition. On view in the WaterFire Arts Center gallery from Thursday, May 4 through Sunday, May 28, 2023. A public opening is scheduled for Thursday, March 4, from 6-9 pm.

Merge, the largest to date One Gun Gone exhibition, combines art and activism through the creation and sales of art made from disarmed guns. The exhibition includes the unveiling of welded metal sculptures created through a new collaboration between the Princes 2 Kings, a Providence Boys and Girls Club program, and the Steel Yard, in addition to pre-pandemic visual artwork.

[One Gun Gone](#) is a multidisciplinary anti gun violence public art project. Students from underserved neighborhoods in Providence, RI have participated in a professional art making project where students and adult artists transform disabled firearms into artworks that communicate how they feel about gun violence. In the process students are introduced to anti gun violence activists, artists and organizations that work to shift culture and policy to push for safer communities for us all.

The month-long exhibition is on view in the WaterFire Arts Center gallery from Thursday, May 4 through Sunday, May 28, 2023 with an opening reception on Thursday, May 4 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. The third Thursday of the month, May 18, is [Gallery Night Providence](#), the WFAC gallery as well as other galleries in the city are open late and trolley tours are available. *An artist panel and community discussion will take place within the month, dates soon to be announced.*

The WFAC store + gallery are open Wednesday through Sunday from 10:00am to 5:00pm and until 9:00pm on Thursdays. The exhibition is free and open to all, donations encouraged.

For more about the WaterFire Arts Center, visit waterfire.org/wfac or follow [@waterfireartscenter](https://www.instagram.com/waterfireartscenter) on Instagram.

###

About the WaterFire Arts Center

WaterFire Providence purchased the building that would become the WaterFire Arts Center in 2012 and began rehabilitation for the vacant, historic, industrial building in the underserved Olneyville/Valley neighborhood of Providence. The 37,000 sq. ft. multi-use arts center has become WaterFire's first permanent home in the community and serves as its headquarters, production complex, and a multi-purpose arts venue as well as a social enterprise platform strengthening the organization's long-term financial sustainability. Exhibitions presented at WaterFire Arts Center will further the organization's agenda of providing arts and culture opportunities and experiences for all, regardless of social, cultural, or economic background. For more information about the WaterFire Arts Center including rental inquiries, please visit: <https://waterfire.org/wfac>

About WaterFire Providence

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 1, 2023

Announcing the Opening of Merge, a One Gun Gone Exhibition at the WaterFire Arts Center gallery

May 4– May 28, 2023 Opening Night: Thursday, May 4, from 6-9 pm

Page 3 of 3

WaterFire Providence® is an independent, 501(c)3 non-profit arts organization whose mission is to inspire Providence and its visitors by revitalizing the urban experience, fostering community engagement, and creatively transforming the city by presenting WaterFire for all to enjoy. Each year nearly 1 million people come to downtown Providence to experience WaterFire spending over \$114,000,000 to the local economy, generating over \$9,000,000 of direct tax revenue for the State of Rhode Island and supporting 1,294 jobs for community residents and strengthening Providence's Creative Capital and Rhode Island's State for the Arts brands. For information about WaterFire Providence and the WaterFire Arts Center visit <https://waterfire.org/>