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[www.articulateshow.org](http://www.articulateshow.org)



## WHYY ANNOUNCES SEASON TWO OF ARTS AND CULTURE SERIES “ARTICULATE WITH JIM COTTER ”

--New Season features guests from a wide range of fields from Daniel Handler of “Lemony Snicket” fame to painter Nina Chanel Abney to modern Renaissance man Mark Mothersbaugh -

--42 segments across 12 episodes explore music, visual arts, dance, and literature in locations from Los Angeles and San Francisco to New York and Boston, with stops in Cuba Memphis, Puerto Rico and more--

(Philadelphia)—WHYY, Philadelphia’s PBS and NPR member-station, announced today the line-up for the second season of its arts and culture series *Articulate with Jim Cotter*. Hosted by veteran broadcast journalist Jim Cotter, the weekly 30-minute series will present a new season beginning October 3, 2017, including 42 segments of interviews and profiles with today’s leading artists, thinkers, and doers across a diverse range of media and genres.

Combining exceptional visual storytelling with a smart and straightforward attitude, *Articulate* offers a new brand of arts journalism for today’s audience. “Our goal is to infuse public television—as well as the digital space—with the perspectives of today’s working artists,” said host and managing editor Jim Cotter. “Art is for everyone, and *Articulate* makes it possible for anyone to connect with the culture, no matter where they are.”

Since it debuted in 2014, *Articulate with Jim Cotter* has grown from a local TV magazine show to an Emmy® award-winning, nationally-syndicated program. Season two’s content includes a wide range of artistic disciplines like kinetic sculpture, photography, jazz, ceramics, and even children’s literature. The season’s locations are as diverse as its subjects, with artist profiles hailing from Cuba, Puerto Rico, Ireland, the UK and Italy alongside content from New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Boston, New Orleans, and beyond

The series is distributed by American Public Television (APT) and broadcast across the country, by public television stations, including many of the top 25 media markets. APT will feed the series each Tuesday, beginning October 3, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. Most public television stations will air the series in varying timeslots throughout the week.

Additionally, episodes of *Articulate* will be available online via public television station websites, including WHYY.org, with a new episode available each Tuesday beginning October 3, 2017, concurrent with the broadcast feed.

*Articulate* is made possible by generous funding from the Neubauer Family Foundation (also supporters of NPR’s *Fresh Air with Terry Gross* and the Metropolitan Opera’s *Live in HD!*) and is produced for WHYY by Arts Advance.

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# EPISODE DESCRIPTIONS AND ARTIST PROFILES

## EPISODE 1

**The Very Fortunate Daniel Handler** -- Though his neighbors call him Daniel Handler, you're more likely to know him as Lemony Snicket, the prolific author of the wildly popular children's books, *A Series of Unfortunate Events*.

**Lisa Hannigan: Stalking the Muse** -- After a decade of non-stop creativity, singer-songwriter Lisa Hannigan came face to face, and then overcame, the horrors of the blank page.

**Nina Chanel is Selling Out [In a Good Way]** -- Nina Chanel Abney's gift was obvious from an early age. Now, she's on her own waiting list for a painting.

- **Daniel Handler:** writer and musician. Best known for his work under the pen name Lemony Snicket, having published the children's series *A Series of Unfortunate Events*. Currently producing Season 2 of the Netflix adaptation starring Neil Patrick Harris. Based in San Francisco
- **Lisa Hannigan:** Irish singer/songwriter. Began musical career as a member of Damien Rice's band. Music has received critical praise, airplay, and award nominations both in her native Ireland and the United States. Based in Dublin
- **Nina Chanel Abney:** Chicago-born, New York-based painter known for exploring race, gender, and politics in her artwork

## EPISODE 2

**Janet Echelman Looms Large** -- Janet Echelman's giant net sculptures are the fruit of an artistic process encompassing technology, engineering, and civic engagement.

**Hats Off to Arturo Rios!** -- What began as a 9-5 job in the shipping department of a hat maker quickly became a life's vocation for the Mexican American millener Arturo Rios.

**Our Greatest Fear** -- Humanity's greatest fear is not the unknown, it's the certainty of death, and we've been dealing with it artistically since time immemorial.

**Justin Bettman's Perspective** -- Justin Bettman's fine art photography took flight when he began using recycled materials to make disposable sets. The images had staying power.

- **Janet Echelman:** Sculptor and artist best known for her large aerial net sculptures. Recipient of a 2011 Guggenheim Fellowship among other distinctions. Current projects include *Dream Catcher*, a permanent sculpture suspended between two towers along the Sunset Strip opening in September. Based in Boston
- **Arturo Rios:** LA-based couture hat designer
- **Justin Bettman:** Brooklyn-based fine art and celebrity known for ongoing art project #setinthestreet
- **Joanna Ebenstein:** Brooklyn-based artist and producer. Founder of the Morbid Anatomy Museum. Part of a larger feature called "RIP Romance?"
- **Caitlin McCormack:** Philadelphia-based crochet artist. Part of a larger feature on Death (Our Greatest Fear)

## EPISODE 3

**Ian Brennan and the Democratization of Music** -- Music producer Ian Brennan believes that cultural colonization by English-speakers needs redress.

**Nina Berman's World View** -- Nina Berman blurs the line between fine art and editorial photography. Her images are as compelling as they are beautiful.

**Inside the Outsider: Leroy Johnson** -- Leroy Johnson has lived on the edges of the art world for all his 80+ years. But life in the hinterland has provided him with his own distinctive artistic voice.

- **Ian Brennan:** Grammy-winning record producer from Oakland. Primarily works from central Africa and Italy
- **Nina Berman:** documentary photographer focused on the American political and social landscape. Professor at Columbia University. Also appears in episode 210
- **Leroy Johnson:** Philadelphia-based mixed-media artist

## EPISODE 4

**Gene Yang: Drawing on Knowledge** -- Gene Yang's career choices have always been driven by vocation. Having spent almost two decades teaching high school, he came to the realization that making comics would be a far more potent educational tool.

**Luke Spiller Struts** -- If you feel like you missed out on British 1970s glam rock, don't worry—The Struts are here to help.

**RIP Romance?** -- For all the alarm about the death of courtship in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, you might be surprised to learn that it's alive and well...and living in your phone.

- **Gene Luen Yang:** cartoonist and author. 2016 MacArthur Fellow. Known for *American Born Chinese* and *Avatar: The Last Airbender* graphic novel continuation. Currently serving as the Library of Congress's National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. Based in San Francisco
- **The Struts:** English rock band from Derbyshire.
- **Moira Weigel:** San Francisco-based author of 2016 book *Labor of Love: The Invention of Dating*. Part of a larger feature called "RIP Romance?"
- **Jessica Libor:** Philadelphia-based painter. Part of a larger feature called "RIP Romance?"
- **Tommy Pico:** Brooklyn-based Native American poet. Currently releasing a trilogy of 3 book-length poems. Part of a larger feature called "RIP Romance?" Also appears in episode 208

## EPISODE 5

**Reubin Margolin Loves Making Waves** -- The kinetic sculptures of Reubin Margolin are extraordinary mechanical attempts to evoke the natural world.

**Jennifer Higdon: Carefully Composed** -- Jennifer Higdon is among the most performed living composers in the world today—but don't get her started on those old dead guys.

**Chemi Rosado-Seijo: No Comply 180** -- The art of skater and painter Chemi Rosado-Seijo is founded in community activism. He is an agent for change in places where creative expression may be low on the list of priorities for survival.

**Finding Sara Rahbar** -- Sara Rahbar has spent a lifetime looking for the antidote to her existential angst. It turns out that the work itself is the cure.

- **Reuben Margolin:** San Francisco-based sculptor known for mechanically driven kinetic sculptures of wave forms
- **Jennifer Higdon:** Composer of classical music. Won the 2009 Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Classical Composition and the 2010 Pulitzer Prize in Music. Based in Philadelphia.
- **Chemi Rosado-Seijo:** Puerto Rico-based artist. Known for community-based projects.
- **Sara Rahbar:** Iranian-born, New York-based mixed media artist

## EPISODE 6

**Mark Mothersbaugh, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Renaissance Man** Mark Mothersbaugh has sustained a life in art that's far removed from his beginnings as the frontman of the 1980s cult band DEVO.

**Liz Casella: Patterns Hidden in Plain Sight** -- Liz Casella designs for a part of the fashion industry that few people know exists. But much of haute couture feeds off her creativity.

**Greg Dunn: Thinking about Thinking** -- In trying to illustrate the complexity of the human brain, Greg Dunn has created great beauty.

- **Mark Mothersbaugh:** composer, record producer, author, and visual artist. Best known as the former frontman of Devo. Upcoming projects include traveling retrospective art exhibition *Myopia* and scores for *The LEGO Ninjago Movie* and *Thor: Ragnarok*. Based in Los Angeles.
- **Liz Casella:** LA-based fashion textile and print designer
- **Greg Dunn:** Philadelphia-based visual artist and neuroscientist known for his complex depictions of the brain

## EPISODE 7

**Kyle Abraham: A Life in Motion** -- The works of choreographer Kyle Abraham feel like a memoir. They reflect his own personal experiences and the social changes he's lived through.

**Maggie Nelson: Transcending the Divide** -- Writer Maggie Nelson is one of the most celebrated critical thinkers of her generation. But all of her work feels starkly personal.

**Ruth Slenczynska: The Last of the Great Romantics** -- Ruth Slenczynska studied under [Rachmaninoff](#) when she was a child. At age 92, all she learned can still be heard in her music.

**Saya Woolfalk's Empathic World** -- Visual artist Saya Woolfalk's imaginary world is populated by a race of mutants and governed by utopian values.

- **Kyle Abraham:** Pittsburgh-born New York-based dancer and choreographer. 2013 MacArthur Fellow
- **Maggie Nelson:** nonfiction writer of *The Argonauts*, named a Best Book of 2015 by *Kirkus*, *The National Post*, *The Guardian*, *The Atlantic*, *Buzzfeed*, and *The San Francisco Chronicle* among others. 2016 MacArthur

Fellow and winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award. Based in Los Angeles.

- **Ruth Slenczynska:** New York-based pianist. 92 years old, known for being one of the last surviving students of Sergei Rachmaninoff
- **Saya Woolfalk:** New York-based mixed media artist

## EPISODE 8

**Christian Scott Tunde Adjuah: 2<sup>nd</sup> Century Jazz** -- Growing up in New Orleans, Christian Scott Tunde Adjuah was steeped in jazz. Now, he's leading the charge into his genre's next chapter.

**Tommy Pico: Epic Poet** -- The world was introduced to Tommy Pico's epic poetry in a thoroughly modern medium.

**Ron Nagle: Compositions and Clay** -- Both Ron Nagle's hit songs and ceramics are born of a dedication to harmony and craft.

**Sidney Hutter: Cool as Glass** -- For nearly four decades, Sidney Hutter's plate glass creations have pushed the boundaries of this cool medium.

- **Christian Scott Tunde Adjuah:** New Orleans-based Grammy-nominated jazz trumpeter.
- **Tommy Pico:** Brooklyn-based Native American poet. Currently releasing a trilogy of 3 book-length poems.
- **Ron Nagle:** San Francisco-based sculptor, musician, and songwriter
- **Sidney Hutter:** Boston-based glass artist

## EPISODE 9

**Allora & Calzadilla: Displacement and Defamiliarization** Conceptual artists Jennifer Allora and Guillermo Calzadilla are one of the art world's most dynamic power couples.

**Doug Balliett: Free Agent** -- Composer and bassist Doug Balliett has created a career as diverse as his own great musical talents.

**The Vibrant Veruschka Stevens** -- Veruschka Stevens uses brightly colored polymer clay to create joyful statement jewelry.

**Daniel Levitin's Musical Mind** -- Producer and writer Daniel Levitin's lifelong love of music has served him both in recordings and on the page.

- **Allora & Calzadilla:** San Juan-based conceptual artists
- **Doug Balliett:** New York-based classical cross-genre composer and Baroque instrumentalist
- **Veruschka Stevens:** Philadelphia-based jeweler, creator of VeruDesigns
- **Daniel Levitin:** San Francisco-born, LA-based neuroscientist, writer, musician, and record producer. Known for best-selling books *This Is Your Brain on Music*, *The World in Six Songs*, and *The Organized Mind*

## EPISODE 10

**Kenny Scharf: Here To Stay** -- Whether on a gallery wall or the side of a car, Kenny Scharf's exuberant cartoons infuse daily life with a dose of whimsy.

**Buffy Sainte-Marie's Indefatigable Spirit** -- Buffy Sainte-Marie's 1960s protest songs made her the subject of FBI attention. Fifty years on, she wouldn't change a thing.

**The Last Refuge...?** -- Unconditional love of country can be blinding. But artists find ways to express patriotism with eyes wide open.

- **Kenny Scharf:** LA-based painter and street artist
- **Buffy Sainte-Marie:** Native Canadian singer-songwriter
- **Michael D'Antuono:** New York state-based painter known for his controversial socio-political artwork. Part of a larger feature called "Impolite Patriots"
- **Nina Berman:** Documentary photographer focused on the American political and social landscape. Professor at Columbia University. Part of a larger feature called "Impolite Patriots." Also appears in episode 203
- **Rogers Smith:** Political scientist and professor at University of Pennsylvania. Part of a larger feature called "Impolite Patriots."

#### EPISODE 11

**The Care and Feeding of Michelle Cuevas** -- The characters in Michelle Cuevas's children's books leap off the page. They are as dynamic and vibrant as their creator.

**Mason Bates: Classical Disrupter** -- Mason Bates has successfully brought music and instruments into the concert hall that would have been unthinkable a decade ago.

**Antonio Martorell** -- Antonio Martorell is a national treasure in Puerto Rico. This painter and sculptor has been at the forefront of the island's artistic conversations for more than half a century.

- **Michelle Cuevas:** children's book author based in Berkshire County, MA
- **Mason Bates:** San Francisco-based Grammy-nominated composer of symphonic music and DJ of electronic dance music

- **Antonio Martorell:** Puerto Rico-based painter and graphic artist

#### EPISODE 12

**Rum, Cigars and Mozart** -- On a recent tour, The Havana Lyceum Orchestra showed America that Cuba has a classical music culture to rival that of any wealthy Western country.

**The Staying Power of Peter Shire** -- An alumnus of the Italian avant-garde movement, The Memphis School, Peter Shire is today thriving in Los Angeles.

**Floriography: Saying It With Flowers** -- These days, flowers mostly say "I love you" or "I'm sorry." In the Victorian era, their language was boundless.

**Elizabeth Turk: The Edge of Gravity** -- In the marble sculptures of Elizabeth Turk, there's a constant tension between the permanence of their medium and her desire to test the limits of its fragility.

- **Simone Dinnerstein:**
- **Peter Shire:** LA-based sculptor, furniture-maker, and ceramicist
- **Elizabeth Turk:** Santa Ana-based marble sculptor. 2010 MacArthur Fellow
- **Joanna Pascale:** Philadelphia-based jazz singer. Part of a larger feature on Floriography (The Language of Flowers)
- **Josh Helmer:** Assistant Director of Interpretation at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Part of a larger feature on Floriography (The Language of Flowers)

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