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THE IRON POUR IS BACK AT THE STEEL YARD – AND SO ARE FAB NIGHTS

PROVIDENCE, RI – Sparks fly again at The Steel Yard on Nov. 14, when the Iron Pour, one of the city's best arts events, returns after a one-year hiatus. To prepare, the Yard is bringing back weekly Fab Nights, hands-on sessions that bring the public backstage to help artists and makers create the oversized sculptures that will be set ablaze by 2,000 pounds of molten metal.

Fab Nights will be held from 6-9 p.m. each Friday, starting July 24, at The Steel Yard, located at 27 Sims Avenue in Providence's Valley Arts District.

Participants get a free, hands-on introduction to the magic of making things by hand, helping Yard fabricators create sculptures with metal as well as papier mache and fabric – any material that burns. During the Iron Pour, trained foundry artists melt recycled iron in custom-built furnaces that tilt, then pour the glowing metal into molds and over these giant, intricate creations, all made in partnership with the public during Fab Nights.

The result is a spectacle of spark and flame that has wowed crowds for 20 years.

At past Fab Nights, artists and community members have together built towering sculptures for the fall events: insects, dinosaurs, a Tesla coil, a Trojan horse. This year's theme centers on the firebird, a creature from Slavic myth that symbolizes resurrection and renewal.

"This year, we're planning extra special props for the return of the Pour," said Michelle Raccone, a long-time Steel Yard metal artist who recently returned to revive the nonprofit's foundry program. "And we're so happy to welcome the public back to the Yard. If you're curious about us or want to see what it's like to work with metal, come for Fab Nights."

This year, The Steel Yard will host additional Friday night sessions where the public can explore ceramics and printmaking.

Participants can practice mold-making and surface design, decorating mugs and trinket trays that will be sold during Iron Pour events. Participants can also make print blocks and transfer designs to items like bandanas and tote bags. These will also be sold as a fundraiser for The Steel Yard.

Ceramics and printmaking opportunities will be offered on three Friday nights – August 7, August 21, and September 18 – also from 6-9 p.m. at The Steel Yard campus.

“We see these Fab Nights as community-based arts education,” said Nyala Honda, director of learning and impact at the Yard. “So come on out and do something fun and free with friends.”

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Mission

The Steel Yard champions a world made by hand where collaborative making strengthens individuals, supports local economies, and enriches the shared spaces of our neighborhoods. We advance the industrial arts by providing artists, makers, and community members with the space, tools, training, and education they need to learn, create, and thrive. In this work we strive to dismantle barriers, address inequities, and ensure the future of the industrial arts is inclusive, diverse and sustainable.