

# WHITNEY

# PRESS RELEASE

Whitney Museum  
of American Art  
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## ACTRESS AND COMEDIAN EGO NWODIM WILL CO-CHAIR THE WHITNEY MUSEUM ANNUAL ART PARTY



*The Dare will DJ the annual Art Party on January 27, 2026 as the Whitney Museum celebrates bold expression in art, style, and sound!*

**New York, NY, updated January 15, 2026** — The Whitney Museum of American Art is thrilled to welcome actress and comedian **Ego Nwodim** as co-chair of the annual Art Party on **Tuesday, January 27, 2026**. This year's event will be headlined by a DJ set by **The Dare**. Hosted by the Museum's Whitney Contemporaries membership group, [\*\*Art Party\*\*](#) is a celebrated cornerstone of New York's arts and philanthropy calendar. Young patrons, emerging artists, and guests from the worlds of art, fashion, business, philanthropy, and entertainment are invited to sip crafted cocktails, enjoy passed bites, explore the Museum's galleries after hours, and dance into the night. This year, bold style takes the spotlight; guests are encouraged to come dressed in their loudest prints and most vibrant patterns and celebrate bold expression in art, style, and sound.

**Nwodim** will join artists **Martine Gutierrez** and **Emma Safir** as Whitney Art Party co-chair, along with Whitney Contemporaries **Steven Beltrani**, **Micaela Erlanger**, and **Alexander Hankin**. The 2026 Whitney Art Party marks Erlanger's 10<sup>th</sup> year as co-chair for the event and supporting the Museum.

“Celebrating a decade of co-chairing the Whitney Art Party feels deeply personal to me. I first partnered with the museum during its move to Gansevoort Street, and I had no idea then how

meaningful this relationship would become," said Erlanger. "Over the years, I've watched the Whitney—and this event—grow, evolve, and continually reflect the creative energy of New York. This city is always reinventing itself, and the Art Party has been one of my favorite places to witness that spirit come alive."



From **8:30 pm to 12 am**, guests will enjoy a night of dancing with **DJ sets by Raúl de Nieves and The Dare**, craft cocktails, and exclusive access to the Museum's galleries. Drinks, music, and passed bites will be offered in the Museum's lobby.

The evening is made possible by **Aesop**, **Faena New York**, **Libertine**, and **Maestro Dobel® Tequila**.



### About Ego Nwodim

Actress, producer, and host Ego Nwodim has been recognized by Variety as part of their [New York Women's Impact Report](#) for her trailblazing work across multiple entertainment platforms. During her seven-year tenure on SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE, Ego created several viral moments including the iconic "Miss Egg" and "Lisa from Temecula," establishing herself as a groundbreaking voice in comedy and earning a Critics Choice nomination for her work on the show in 2026 for her final season and just received her third NAACP nomination. She recently wrapped production on Matt Spicer's LITTLE BROTHER, the upcoming Netflix comedy alongside John Cena and Eric Andre and lends her voiceover talents to the Disney film HOPPERS and BACKYARD BASEBALL an upcoming special adaptation of the beloved video game of the same name. On television, she can

next be seen in Mindy Kaling's upcoming comedy series *NOT SUITABLE FOR WORK* on Hulu. Ego also hosts her own podcast [THANKS, DAD](#), where she invites guests to be her "Dad for the Day" for funny, heartfelt conversations.

### **About The Dare**

The Dare—the solo project of vocalist, songwriter and producer Harrison Patrick Smith—took the world by storm with the release of his debut album, *What's Wrong With New York?*, in 2024, drawing extensive praise from critics and fellow artists alike. The LP, which arrived via Republic Records, features The Dare's ubiquitous single ["Girls"](#)—now a bona fide hit with 63 million streams on Spotify alone—and fan favorites ["Perfume"](#) and ["Good Time."](#) He's spent the months since touring the record across the world, selling out every single show worldwide, with a bevy of festival performances throughout the summer, including sets at Coachella, Primavera Sound, Lollapalooza, Reading, Leeds and more. The Dare's legendary DJ sets, honed at his signature downtown Manhattan party *Freakrequencies*, have soundtracked parties for Gucci, Celine and Yves Saint Laurent and featured in *Rolling Stone*, *GQ*, *PAPER* and more. Amidst his meteoric rise, he has shared stages and collaborated with the likes of Charli XCX, Billie Eilish, PinkPantheress, Justice, Yves Tumor, Water From Your Eyes and a host of others. Most recently, The Dare shared a deluxe version of his debut album, *What's Wrong With New York?: Afters*, featuring three new tracks taken from sessions for his full-length debut.

### **WHEN**

Tuesday, January 27, 2026  
8:30 pm–12 am

### **WHERE**

Whitney Museum of American Art  
99 Gansevoort Street  
New York, NY 10014

### **WHO**

Art Party is hosted by the Whitney Contemporaries, a group of young leaders and arts patrons who play an active role in fulfilling the Whitney's critical mission to support American art.

### **ART PARTY CO-CHAIRS**

Steven Beltrani  
Micaela Erlanger  
Martine Gutierrez  
Alexander Hankin  
Ego Nwodim  
Emma Safir

### **BENEFIT COMMITTEE**

Frederick Baba, Michael Costeloe, Jonathan Densa, Jeremy L. Goldstein, Casey Kohlberg, Claire X. Lin, Hannah Rose McNeely, John Ng, George Petrocheilos and Diamantis Xylas, Heather Ripley, Akash Shah, Todd White and Cameron Carani

## HOST COMMITTEE

Edward Barsamian, Ariana Biermann, Malcolm Carfrae, Rose Carlisle, Jade Croonenberghs, CULTURED, Sarah Daoui, Ava Dash, Kate Davidson Hudson, Peter Davis, Sai De Silva, Emira D'Spain, Sophie Elgort, Jennifer Fisher, Sasha Gordon, Sarah Hoover, Logan Horne, Danya Issawi, Sebastian Jean, Dr. Amanda Kahn, Lotus L. Kang, Elizabeth Kurpis, Doron Langberg, Erin Lichy, Agosto Machado, Ian Malone, Sophie Yun Mancini, Brooks Marks, Meredith Marks, Georgia McCann, Matteo Mobilio, Lilah Ramzi, Hilary Rhoda, Gabrielle Richardson, Nicolaia Rips, Hayley River Smith, Céline Semaan, Daphne Seybold, Priya Shukla, Dani Stahl, Claire Stern Milch, Jessel Taank, Andrew Taylor, Elise Taylor, Kodie-Ann Walcott, Frank WANG Yefeng, John Wattiker, Timo Weiland

## WHITNEY CONTEMPORARIES

### Executive Committee Co-Chairs

Adam Fields, Molly Krause

### Trustee Liaison

Joanne Leonhardt Cassullo

### Curatorial Liaison

Kelly Long

### Executive Committee

Fred Baba, Micaela Erlanger, Alexander Hankin, Suzanna Lee, Heather Ripley, Catherine Smith Licari

## TICKETS

**Art Party Tickets:** \$275 (\$225 for [Whitney Contemporaries](#) members). Admits one.

**Artist Sponsor:** \$525 (\$475 for [Whitney Contemporaries](#) members). Artist Sponsor ticket purchases support the Whitney in extending complimentary tickets to artists of its choosing. Artist Sponsor ticket buyers will receive VIP entry. With the purchase of two or more Artist Sponsor tickets, you will be listed on the website as part of the Benefit Committee.

**1 Year of Whitney Contemporaries Membership + 1 Ticket to the 2026 Art Party:** \$775. Admits one and includes one annual membership (\$1,025 value).

**1 Year of Whitney Contemporaries Membership + 2 Ticket to the 2026 Art Party:** \$1,000. Admits two and includes annual membership (\$1,300 value).

*Tickets are required for this event. All attendees must be 21 years or older and may be required to provide valid ID for admission. Tickets are nonrefundable and tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

More information about tickets is available on [whitney.org/artparty](http://whitney.org/artparty).

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## PRESS CONTACT

For press inquiries and requests to cover the event, please contact:

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For additional press assets and information about the Whitney Museum's Art Party please visit:  
[whitney.org/press/special-events](http://whitney.org/press/special-events).

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## SPONSORS

Art Party is sponsored by

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## ABOUT THE WHITNEY

The Whitney Museum of American Art, founded in 1930 by the artist and philanthropist Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney (1875–1942), houses the foremost collection of American art from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Mrs. Whitney, an early and ardent supporter of modern American art, nurtured groundbreaking artists when audiences were still largely preoccupied with the Old Masters. From her vision arose the Whitney Museum of American Art, which has been championing the most innovative art of the United States for ninety years. The core of the Whitney's mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit American art of our time and serve a wide variety of audiences in celebration of the complexity and diversity of art and culture in the United States. Through this mission and a steadfast commitment to artists, the Whitney has long been a powerful force in support of modern and contemporary art and continues to help define what is innovative and influential in American art today.

**Image credit:**

Lead image: Photos by Jason Lowrie/BFA.com

Left to right: Photos by Deonté Lee/BFA.com

Left to right: Ego Nwodim. Photo by Oriana Layendecker; The Dare — Photo by Richard Kern

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