

WHITNEY

Whitney Museum
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PRESS RELEASE



The Empire State Building and the new Whitney (white building in foreground to the right of the ESB). Photograph by Tim Schenck

Empire State Building to Light Up for the Whitney on May 1

In Celebration of the Opening of the Whitney's New Downtown Home and the 84th Anniversary of the Empire State Building

NEW YORK, NY, April 23, 2015—The Whitney Museum of American Art will partner with Empire State Realty Trust on a one-of-a-kind, one-night-only Empire State Building lightshow on Friday, May 1, 2015. The lightshow marks two historic occasions: the opening day of the Whitney's new Renzo Piano–designed building in Manhattan's Meatpacking District and the eighty-fourth anniversary of the Empire State Building.

Focusing on twelve iconic works from the Whitney's collection, lighting designer Marc Brickman will interpret pieces by artists Georgia O'Keeffe, Edward Hopper, Andy Warhol, Peter Halley, and Barbara Kruger, among others, utilizing the Empire State Building's LED tower lights to create a dynamic show. Beginning at 8 pm on Friday, May 1, each of the twelve artworks will be showcased for thirty minutes, with the light show ending at 2 am on Saturday, May 2. Most of the works that inspired the light show will be on view at the Whitney as part of the new building's inaugural exhibition, *America Is Hard to See* (May 1–September 27, 2015).

"We're thrilled to see these incredible works from the Whitney's collection interpreted on one of the most iconic buildings in the world—one that has been the subject of many an artist's work," said Donna De Salvo, the Whitney's Chief Curator and Deputy Director for Programs. "We can't imagine a more spectacular way in which to signal the opening of our new building and celebrate the art and artists of the United States."

"The Empire State Building has brought music, sports, and elections to life with our state-of-the-art lighting system, and now we're delighted to showcase the impressive artwork of the Whitney Museum of American Art," said Anthony E. Malkin, Chairman and CEO of ESRT. "Our partnership with the Whitney will give the people of New York a celebration of two of the city's iconic institutions."

To kick off the celebration, a lighting ceremony will take place at the Empire State Building for invited media and guests on May 1. John B. Kessler, President and Chief Operating Officer of Empire State Realty Trust; Adam D. Weinberg, the Whitney's Alice Pratt Brown Director; Donna De Salvo, the Whitney's Chief Curator and Deputy Director for Programs; and some of the artists whose work will be interpreted in the light show will jointly flip the "switch" and light the building in celebratory colors.

A special viewing for Museum visitors will be held on Friday, May 1, from 8 pm until 10 pm, at the Whitney's new building at 99 Gansevoort Street, which has stunning views of the Empire State Building from its four, east-facing terraces. The artworks can be viewed online at whitney.org/ESB and, on May 1, an online slideshow will be synchronized to the lightshow, so that viewers throughout the city can look at the Empire State Building and the art works in real time.

Featured Artworks:

Georgia O'Keeffe, *Music Pink and Blue No. 2*, 1918
Edward Hopper, *Railroad Sunset*, 1929
Chiura Obata, *Evening Glow of Yosemite Fall*, 1930
Mary Ellen Bute, *Synchromy No. 4: Escape*, 1937-1938
William H. Johnson, *Blind Singer*, c.1942
Mark Rothko, *Untitled (Blue, Yellow, Green on Red)*, 1954
Jasper Johns, *Three Flags*, 1958
Andy Warhol, *Flowers*, 1970
Elizabeth Murray, *Children Meeting*, 1978
Peter Halley, *Blue Cell with Triple Conduit*, 1986
Barbara Kruger, *We Don't Need Another Hero*, 1987
Cory Arcangel, *Super Mario Clouds*, 2002

About the Empire State Building

Soaring 1,454 feet above Midtown Manhattan (from base to antenna), the Empire State Building, owned by Empire State Realty Trust, Inc., is the "World's Most Famous Office Building." With new investments in energy efficiency, infrastructure, public areas and amenities, the Empire State Building has attracted first-rate tenants in a diverse array of industries from around the world. The skyscraper's robust broadcasting technology supports all major television and FM radio stations in the New York metropolitan market. The Empire State Building was named America's favorite building in a poll conducted by the American Institute of Architects, and the Empire State Building Observatory is one of the world's most beloved attractions as the region's #1 tourist destination. For more information on the Empire State Building, please visit empirestatebuilding.com, [@EmpireStateBldg](https://www.instagram.com/empirestatebldg), [facebook.com/empirestatebuilding](https://www.facebook.com/empirestatebuilding), [youtube.com/esbnyc](https://www.youtube.com/esbnyc) or [pinterest.com/empirestatebldg/](https://www.pinterest.com/empirestatebldg/).

About Empire State Realty Trust

Empire State Realty Trust, Inc. (NYSE: ESRT), a leading real estate investment trust (REIT), owns, manages, operates, acquires and repositions office and retail properties in Manhattan and the greater New York metropolitan area, including the Empire State Building, the world's most famous office building. Headquartered in New York, New York, the Company's office and retail portfolio covers 10.0 million rentable square feet, as of December 31 2014, consisting of 9.3 million rentable square feet in 14 office properties, including nine in Manhattan, three in Fairfield County, Connecticut and two in Westchester County, New York; and approximately 728,000 rentable square feet in the retail portfolio. The Company also owns land at the Stamford, Connecticut Transportation Center that supports the development of an approximately 380,000 rentable square foot office building and garage.

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 at a time 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 more than eighty 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 themselves, 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.