

**EMPIRE STATE REALTY TRUST PARTNERS WITH WHITNEY MUSEUM
FOR EMPIRE STATE BUILDING LIGHT SHOW ON MAY 1
INSPIRED BY ICONIC WORKS OF AMERICAN ART**

*In Celebration of the Opening of the New Whitney Museum of American Art
and 84th Anniversary of the Empire State Building*



Photo of the new Whitney Museum of American Art (white building in center foreground) and the Empire State Building by Timothy Schenck

New York City (April 23, 2015) – Empire State Realty Trust, Inc. (NYSE: ESRT) announced today that the Empire State Building (ESB) will partner with the Whitney Museum of American Art to design a one-of-a-kind light show, showcasing an interpretation of works of American art from the Whitney's collection. The light show, taking place on Friday, May 1, 2015, will unite the two icons as they mark historic occasions: the opening day of the Whitney's new building in Manhattan's Meatpacking District and the 84th anniversary of the ESB.

Internationally-acclaimed lighting designer Marc Brickman will interpret twelve iconic works from the Whitney's collection by artists including Georgia O'Keeffe, Edward Hopper, Andy Warhol, Peter Halley and Barbara Kruger, utilizing the building's LED tower lights to create a dynamic show. Beginning at 8 p.m. on Friday, May 1, each artwork-inspired lighting display will be showcased on the architectural landmark for thirty minutes, with the light show ending at 2 a.m. 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.

"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 Chief Executive Officer 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, the ESB will host a lighting ceremony 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 ESB in celebratory colors.

A special viewing for museum visitors will be held at the Whitney's new building at 99 Gansevoort Street on Friday, May 1, from 8 p.m. until 10 p.m., which has stunning views of the ESB from its four, east-facing terraces. The works can be viewed online at www.whitney.org/ESB.

"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."

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

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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 www.empirestatebuilding.com, [@EmpireStateBldg](http://www.facebook.com/empirestatebuilding), www.instagram.com/empirestatebldg, www.youtube.com/esbnyc or 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.

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 new and influential in American art today. For more information about the Whitney, visit whitney.org, twitter.com/whitneymuseum, facebook.com/whitneymuseum, instagram.com/whitneymuseum and whitneymuseum.tumblr.com.

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