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**FirstWorks introduces Rhode Island to L.A. multimedia artist Miwa Matreyek's newest work fresh from its Sundance Festival premiere**

*Animation and performance combine to create visual wonders*

Providence, RI – **FirstWorks**, a Rhode Island non-profit dedicated to building community through world-class arts, will present acclaimed multimedia artist **Miwa Matreyek's** "Glorious Visions in Animation" at **Providence College at the Smith Center for the Arts** on **Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.** Tickets are \$30 advance, \$35 at the door, with community discounts available. Tickets are available by phone at (401) 421-4278, or online at [first-works.org](http://first-works.org).

**FirstWorks** welcomes LA-based animator, director, designer and performer **Miwa Matreyek** and her unique brand of animated performance back to Providence for a residency highlighted by a performance of her "Glorious Visions in Animation," which premiered at the Sundance Festival on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Matreyek creates live, one-of-a-kind staged performances where she interacts with her animation as a shadow silhouette, at the intersection of cinematic and theatrical, fantastical and tangible, handmade and tech.

"Glorious Visions in Animation" features two visually extraordinary pieces: Matreyek's newest work, "Infinitely Yours," which explores the web of intricate connections between humans and climate change, and "This World Made Itself," a journey from Earth's epic beginnings to today's fast-paced, human world.



Matreyek's residency is part of FirstWorks' "Earth First" programming, a season-long project that asks audiences to reflect on concepts of sustainability and environmental stewardship through world-class performing arts.

"FirstWorks is elated to bring Miwa Matreyek to the Providence community. Her cross-genre imaginative approach to performance is indicative of FirstWorks' commitment to world-class, socially relevant performance art," said Kathleen Pletcher, Executive Artistic Director of FirstWorks. "Miwa's work will spark conversations and leave audiences contemplating their role in the larger human world."

As part of her 2020 residency with FirstWorks, Matreyek will offer a series of workshops in Rhode Island schools as well as an Artist Up Close conversation and film screening on Wednesday, March 28, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. in the Metcalf Auditorium at the RISD Museum Chace Center (20 N, Main St, Providence). Matreyek will discuss the methods and inspiration behind her "Glorious Visions in Animation," and show a series of original film shorts. To register for this free event visit [first-works.org](https://first-works.org).

FirstWorks' "Earth First" programming is designed to promote innovative thinking around intractable climate-related problems through the arts. The program engages students in academic and creative multi-month projects that utilize arts-intensive, in-school experiences to communicate compelling ideas of social responsibility and global interconnectedness. "Earth First" also champions performing artists who bring environmental issues to the public eye through their work.

Miwa Matreyek is presented in partnership with Providence College. Special thanks to National Grid Foundation, CDQ Trust and Nordson Corporation



Foundation for making this program possible. For more information on FirstWorks' 2020 season, visit [first-works.org](https://first-works.org). Educator and community discounts are available by calling 401-421-4278.

### **About Miwa Matreyek**

Miwa Matreyek is an animator, designer, and performer based in Los Angeles. Coming from a background in animation, Matreyek creates live, staged performances where she interacts with her animations as a shadow silhouette, at the cross-section of cinematic and theatrical, fantastical and tangible, illusionistic and physical. She has performed her interdisciplinary shadow performances at such notable institutions as TED, MOMA, White Light Festival at Lincoln Center, and Sundance New Frontier. She received her MFA for Experimental Animation and Integrated Media from CalArts in 2007. She is also a co-founder and core-collaborator of the multi-media theater company, Cloud Eye Control. Matreyek is a recipient of the Sherwood Award (2016), Creative Capital Award (2013), Princess Grace Award (2007), and Princess Grace Foundation's Special Projects award (2009, 2012, 2019).

### **About FirstWorks**

FirstWorks is a non-profit based in Providence, Rhode Island whose purpose is to build the cultural, educational and economic vitality of its community by engaging diverse audiences with world-class performing arts and education programs. Since 2004, FirstWorks festivals, performances and programs have attracted more than 600,000 participants. Last season, FirstWorks arts education programs reached over 5,500 students from public and charter schools across Rhode Island with transformative, arts-based learning experiences. FirstWorks is the founding partner of PVDfest, collaborating with the City of Providence to produce the City's free signature arts celebration held each June. In 2019 PVDfest drew 130,000 visitors to Providence to experience music, art and spectacular performances. Embracing collaboration, FirstWorks has fostered over 90 community partnerships across business, social service, government, arts, and education sectors. Sustained collaborations with higher education include ambitious programming with Brown Arts Initiative at Brown University, artist workshops at Providence College, and lectures at Rhode Island School of Design. Visit [first-works.org](https://first-works.org) to learn more.

### **Listings Information:**

WHO: FirstWorks presents Miwa Matreyek's "Glorious Visions in Animation"  
WHAT: A moving art gallery of magical, spellbinding narratives made by merging animated vistas and the artist's own shadow



WHEN: Wednesday, March 25, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Ryan Concert Hall, Smith Center for the Arts at Providence College, 63 Eaton Street, Providence

TICKETS: \$30 advance at [first-works.org](http://first-works.org), (401) 421-4278. \$35 at the door. Educator and student discounts available (401) 421-4278

WHO: FirstWorks presents an Artist Up Close conversation with Miwa Matreyek

WHAT: Miwa Matreyek discusses the methods and inspiration behind her performance suite, "Glorious Visions in Animation"

WHEN: Sunday, March 28, 2020, 1:30 p.m.

WHERE: Metcalf Auditorium, Chace Center at the RISD Museum, 20 N Main Street, Providence

TICKETS: Free, registration in advance at [first-works.org](http://first-works.org), (401) 421-4278.

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