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74 INDIVIDUALS TOUCHED BY CANCER AND ARTISTS ARE PART OF THE 2019 BRUSHES WITH CANCER PROGRAM IN CHICAGO ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2

This year's program includes Breast Cancer Survivor Jenny Conlee-Drizos of the Decemberists and Chicago native, actor, and comedian Lil Rel Howery

September 26, 2019, Chicago – [Twist Out Cancer](#), an international non-profit charitable organization that provides psychosocial support to individuals touched by cancer through creative arts programming, announced today that tickets are now on sale for the seventh annual [Brushes With Cancer art exhibition and gala in Chicago](#). It will be held on the evening of Saturday, November 2 at [Moonlight Studios](#), 1446 West Kinzie Street, in Chicago. Guests will be treated to an evening centered on art, entertainment, storytelling, hope, inspiration, and survivorship. Over 600 guests are expected to attend the gala, which has sold out the previous two years. This unique celebration pairs previvors, survivors, fighters, and caregivers, referred to as Inspirations, with accomplished artists working in a variety of mediums. Those touched by cancer share their 'twist on cancer' – stories, feelings and experiences – with the artist, which serves as the inspiration for the art.

For this year's program, 37 Inspirations (individuals touched by cancer) have been matched with 37 Artists. This includes Jenny Conlee-Drizos, who is a Breast Cancer survivor and is the organist and pianist for [The Decemberists](#). For this year's program, Jenny was matched with a blood cancer survivor from the Chicago area and wrote a song about her experience with cancer. Jenny will perform this original song live at the Brushes With Cancer Gala. Another Inspiration is Chicago native, actor, and comedian [Lil Rel Howery](#), who lost his mom and brother to cancer.

"We are so excited to bring Brushes With Cancer back home for our seventh annual program in Chicago, which has grown exponentially since we launched the organization with a small and intimate program in 2012. After all these years, we are honored to have a record of 74 participants in Chicago this year! This has been a monumental year for us as we have scaled this program to include chapters in Detroit, Philadelphia, and Austin Texas. This year alone, we have reached over 4,800 people through this transformative program," said Jenna Benn Shersher, Founder and Executive Director of Twist Out Cancer. "Breast cancer survivors, and former Inspirations, Mardi Kaplan and Gudrun Wu Snyder are the chairing this year's event. Their leadership has allowed us to grow this program to a new level and in turn touch hundreds of individuals touched by cancer right here in the Chicago area."

The artwork will be [auctioned online](#) in the weeks leading up to Brushes With Cancer in Chicago as well as on the night of the event. All of the proceeds from art sales are reinvested into Brushes with Cancer, helping to bring this program to more people around the world.

Twist Out Cancer is honored to feature Emmy award winning journalist, cancer survivor and the founder of Armor Up, [Loriana Hernandez-Aldama](#), who will speak about her experience overcoming Leukemia, along with local journalist [Anthony Ponce](#), who will serve as the emcee for the evening. Other entertainment includes music from sultry jazz and pop singer [Jesse Palter](#), who was a caregiver to Jenna Benn Shersher during her cancer journey; Flamenco guitarist [David DaCosta](#); and [DJ John Simmons](#).

General admission tickets for the 2019 Brushes With Cancer program are \$175 and VIP tickets are \$225, plus applicable fees. Doors open at 6 p.m. for VIP ticketholders, who will be treated to a reception that includes early viewing and bidding of the artwork and a meet and greet with the Artists and the Inspirations. General admission begins at 7 p.m. All guests will be treated to delicious food provided by [Lettuce Entertain You](#)

[Enterprises](#), [Entertaining Company](#), and [Jordan's Food by Distinction](#) as well as an open bar from the [Chit Chat Lounge](#) and [The Swill Inn](#). All guests will have access to the art exhibition and live entertainment throughout the evening. Tickets and more information is available at www.twistoutcancer.org/brushes/chicago.

About Twist Out Cancer

Established in 2011 as a non-profit organization, Twist Out Cancer offers the platform, tools and community – both online and offline – for anyone touched by cancer to feel connected to a community, and for many to take action. Twist Out Cancer was founded on the principle that when you share, the world opens up. Since its inception, the organization has touched over 22,000 people around the world through its programs and events. A labor of love, Twist Out Cancer is a volunteer-led organization boasting a network of over 200 active volunteers serving as ambassadors in Chicago, Detroit, Philadelphia, Ann Arbor, Austin, Tel Aviv, Toronto, and Montreal. More information is available at www.twistoutcancer.org.

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