

1047 Amsterdam Ave.  
at 112th Street  
New York, NY 10025  
T (212) 316-7490  
stjohndivine.org

**RELEASE**

For further information please call

Julie Robinson, Rubenstein Communications  
(212) 843-9341 / [jrobinson@rubenstein.com](mailto:jrobinson@rubenstein.com)

Isadora Wilkenfeld, Cathedral of St. John the Divine  
(212) 316-7468 / [iwilkenfeld@stjohndivine.org](mailto:iwilkenfeld@stjohndivine.org)

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**UKRAINIAN ARTIST ALJOSCHA'S  
*THE MIRACULOUS DRAUGHT*  
RISES HIGH INSIDE THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE**

*Installation on view beginning March 1*



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Continuing its long-standing tradition of contemporary art exhibitions, **the Cathedral of St. John the Divine** will be the site of a sculptural installation, *The Miraculous Draught*, by Ukrainian artist **Aljoscha** beginning **Sunday, March 1, 2020 at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 1047 Amsterdam Avenue (at 112th Street), Manhattan.**

*The Miraculous Draught*, on view March 1 – May 15 in the Cathedral, is Aljoscha's first major solo exhibition in the United States. The installation of 153 translucent sculptures, weightlessly suspended from the ceiling of the Cathedral's Nave, takes inspiration from two Biblical miracle

stories in the Gospels of Luke and John. In both, Jesus tells his disciples, who had been fishing with no success, to again cast their nets. In the story related in the Gospel of John, the disciples are soon astonished by their catch (or “draught”) of fish:

*“Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of 153 large fish, but even with so many the net was not torn.” (John 21:11)*

The individual sculptures are suggestive of biological forms, a frequent subject in Aljoscha’s work. The artist, whose prior works have been exhibited in Europe and Central and South America, is known for his allusions to biofuturism, evolution, and organic shapes, frequently appearing as the constituent parts of superorganisms. Perhaps, the artist suggests, humanity is itself a superorganism, driven to seek out experiences of the Divine as part of an inner impulse.

The Cathedral has a long history of presenting art exhibitions, from meditative to challenging, historical to contemporary. Past exhibitions include *The Value of Sanctuary: Building a House Without Walls* (February – June 2019); *The Barberini Tapestries: Woven Monuments of Baroque Rome* (March – July 2017); *The Christa Project: Manifesting Divine Bodies* (October 2016 – March 2017); *The Value of Food: Sustaining a Green Planet* (October 2015 – April 2016); and *Phoenix: Xu Bing at the Cathedral* (January 2014 – March 2015).

*The Miraculous Draught* will be on view in two phases, with 103 sculptures suspended for the first phase beginning March 1, and the remaining 50 installed in the days leading to Easter Sunday. The completed work will be on view at the Cathedral through the middle of May.

Several events and special tours are planned to coincide with the exhibition. For more information, please visit <https://www.stjohndivine.org/art/art-exhibitions/>.

### **About Aljoscha**

Aljoscha (Aleksey Alekseevich Potupin) was born in 1974 in Glukhov, Ukraine. He has lived and worked in Düsseldorf, Germany since 2003. In his drawings, sculptures, and installations, Aljoscha addresses topics such as biology and the theory of life, as well as bioism, which serves as a utopian model for new forms of life or living beings, but also with the great philosophical and scientific questions about life itself. He says, “I regard art as one of the highest human activities. For me, it represents a philosophy, perhaps even a religion. In this sense, I try to create an aesthetic utopia.” His works are represented in numerous private collections and museums, including the Erarta Museum of Contemporary Art in St. Petersburg, the Kupferstichkabinett Berlin, and the State Museum of Contemporary Art in Thessaloniki.

### **About The Cathedral**

The Cathedral of St. John the Divine is the Cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of New York. It is chartered as a house of prayer for all people and a unifying center of intellectual light and leadership.

People from many faiths and communities worship together in services held more than 30 times a week; the soup kitchen serves roughly 25,000 meals annually; social service outreach has an

increasingly varied roster of programs; the distinguished Cathedral School prepares young students to be future leaders; Advancing the Community of Tomorrow (ACT), the renowned preschool, afterschool and summer program, offers diverse educational and nurturing experiences; the outstanding Textile Conservation Lab preserves world treasures; concerts, exhibitions, performances and civic gatherings allow conversation, celebration, reflection and remembrance—such is the joyfully busy life of this beloved and venerated Cathedral.

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