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Gajin Fujita to Create Chicago Sports Team Tribute Mural for Navy Pier's BIGart Exhibition

*L.A. Graffiti Artist to Salute Chicago Sports Teams with Mural in Lake
Shore Drive/Grand Avenue Viaduct*



Gajin Fujita, image courtesy of L.A. Louver Gallery

CHICAGO – Next time you approach Navy Pier through the viaduct at Lake Shore Drive and Grand Avenue, you will be stunned by a powerfully colorful mural by L.A.-based graffiti artist **Gajin Fujita**. Fujita is bringing his eclectic artistry to Navy Pier's front door with a

special mural that is a tribute to Chicago sports teams. The large scale commission is part of **BIGart**, Navy Pier's annual free outdoor art exhibit.

Gajin Fujita mixes traditional Japanese imagery with contemporary graffiti techniques that he learned while growing up in Boyle Heights, Los Angeles. He fuses street and pop culture images with dragons, graffiti lettering and cartoons to create his one of a kind pieces.

Fujita received his BFA from Otis College of Art and Design and his MFA from the University of Nevada in Las Vegas.

Gajin Fujita's intensely colored mural will be the latest piece of art that comes to Navy Pier as part of **BIGart**, an annual free outdoor art exhibition. This year Navy Pier partnered with contemporary art gallery **Gagosian Gallery** to bring monumental sculptures and large-scale murals to the Pier that will provide amazing physical impact to visitors.

BIGart is well underway with Roy Lichtenstein's *Brushstroke Group* and Anthony Caro's *Blazon* already on display. Renowned large-scale sculpture artist Nancy Rubins will also be installing her work *Monochrome II Chicago* (a massive web of canoes and row boats suspended from a steel armature) for 10 days beginning June 10. Steed Taylor's "road tattoo" entitled Galloon has also been painted directly on the street in front of Navy Pier that honors military heroes.

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A Chicago Landmark since 1916, Navy Pier has evolved from a freight passenger ship docking facility to the #1 tourist attraction in the Midwest, drawing more than eight million visitors annually. Navy Pier currently encompasses more than fifty acres of parks, gardens, shops, restaurants, family attractions and exhibit facilities, making it a tourists and visitors entertainment hub. For more information, visit our website at www.navypier.com