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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIRST FRIDAYS: THE NUTCRACKER AND THE MOUSE KING
11:Eleven gallery partners with the DC chapter of The Bushwick Book Club for a special holiday edition of First Fridays in Downtown DC.
Art. Literature. Music.

WASHINGTON, DC — On Friday, December 4, 2026, 11:Eleven gallery will partner with the DC chapter of The Bushwick Book Club, a Washington Performing Arts Mars Arts D.C. Artist, to present *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King*, a special holiday edition of First Fridays and the final instalment of the gallery's 2026 cultural program.

The evening will feature the premiere of original works inspired by E.T.A. Hoffmann's *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King*, the darker and more mysterious fairy tale that inspired Tchaikovsky's beloved ballet.

The Bushwick Book Club is the joyous intersection of independent artists and book lovers. For each event, participating artists read a shared literary work and create original pieces in response. Founded in Brooklyn in 2009, the organization now has nine active chapters worldwide, with the DC chapter established in 2022.

Hoffmann's original tale features a seven-headed Mouse King, a family curse and a quest for revenge against young Marie, guardian of the Nutcracker. But is the monster real, or is it all in Marie's imagination?

Bringing their own creative interpretations to this fantastical story are **carousel punk band Boy Meets Pearl**, **members of DC's Queer Tango Collective**, **folk blues artist Juels Bland**, **animator Kerri Sheehan** and **indie electronic artist Safety Bear**.

First Fridays is 11:Eleven gallery's ongoing cultural program bringing together art, music and community through engaging and accessible experiences in the heart of Downtown DC. The program creates opportunities for audiences to experience contemporary art alongside live performances and creative collaborations within the gallery.
This special holiday edition is presented by 11:Eleven gallery in partnership with the DC chapter of The Bushwick Book Club, with support from DowntownDC BID and Washington Performing Arts through its Mars Arts D.C. initiative.

EVENT DETAILS
Event: First Fridays: The Nutcracker and the Mouse King
Date: Friday, December 4, 2026
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Venue: 11:Eleven gallery, National Press Building, 1330 F Street NW, Washington, DC 20004
Admission: Free | Limited seating | Advance registration encouraged
More information and registration: https://www.11elevengallery.com/events

About Mars Arts D.C.
Mars Arts D.C. is Washington Performing Arts's signature community engagement initiative, presenting and elevating the vibrant arts and business communities across all eight wards of the District. The product of a partnership between Washington Performing Arts, Jacqueline Badger Mars, and Mars, Incorporated, Mars Arts D.C. carries out its mission of presenting and elevating the dynamic vibrancy found in the local arts community and business economy through ever-growing artist engagement and long-term communal partnerships. Through artist engagements, residencies, education programs, community partnerships, and connections to WPA's main stage programming, Mars Arts D.C. creates meaningful opportunities for artists and audiences to connect, celebrate, and grow together.

About 11:Eleven Gallery
Founded in 2019, 11:Eleven gallery is a contemporary art gallery based in Downtown Washington, DC, now operating across 5,000 sq ft within the historic National Press Building. The gallery presents a dynamic programme of exhibitions and events, showcasing emerging and established artists across contemporary and urban practices, with works available to collect.

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