

# WHITNEY

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## PRESS RELEASE



Installation view of *Jeff Koons: A Retrospective* (Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, June 17–October 19, 2014).  
©Jeff Koons. Photography by Ronald Amstutz.

### **The Whitney presents Tenth Annual Annenberg Lecture: Jeff Koons in Conversation with Adam D. Weinberg**

**NEW YORK, August 12, 2014**— For the 2014 Walter Annenberg Lecture, artist Jeff Koons, who is currently the subject of a career-spanning retrospective at the Whitney, will speak about his work with Adam D. Weinberg, the Museum's Alice Pratt Brown Director. The conversation will take place on Tuesday, September 30, at 7pm, at the Whitney Museum of American Art, 945 Madison Avenue at 75th Street, in the Museum's lower gallery. The annual lecture is given in honor of the late Walter H. Annenberg, philanthropist, patron of the arts, and former ambassador. Tickets are \$20; \$12 for members, seniors, and students. Member pre-sale tickets will be available August 13–15; general tickets will be available August 16.

### **About Jeff Koons**

Over the past 35 years, Jeff Koons has become one of the most popular, influential, controversial, and important artists of the postwar generation. Throughout his career, he has pioneered new approaches to the readymade, tested the boundaries between advanced art and mass culture, and challenged the limits of industrial fabrication in works of great beauty and emotional intensity. Outside of his studio, Koons has transformed the relationship of artists to the cult of celebrity and the global market to become one of the best-known visual artists alive today. Above all, he is the maker of some of the most indelible icons of contemporary art, including *One Ball Total Equilibrium Tank* (1985), *Rabbit* (1986), *Michael Jackson and Bubbles* (1988), *Made in Heaven* (1989), and *Balloon Dog* (1994–2000), all of which are included in the Whitney retrospective.

Koons was born in 1955 in York, Pennsylvania. He studied at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore and at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago before moving to New York City in 1976. Koons's work has been the subject of numerous solo exhibitions at museums including the Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli (2003); the Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art (Oslo, 2004); the Helsinki City Art Museum (2005); the Museum of Contemporary Art (Chicago, 2008 and 2009); the Château de Versailles (France, 2008–09); the Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, 2008); the Neue Nationalgalerie (Berlin, 2008); the Serpentine Gallery (London, 2009); and the Beyeler Foundation (Riehen, Switzerland, 2012). In 2012, the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt and the Liebieghaus Skulpturensammlung, Frankfurt mounted concurrent shows of his paintings and sculptures, respectively. Koons is one of the few artists of his generation who has transcended the fine art world to work with a variety of cultural figures, including filmmaker Gus Van Sant, fashion designer Stella McCartney, and pop star Lady Gaga, in addition to having designed a BMW Art Car in 2010. Koons has also partnered with several companies such as Kiehl's, H&M, and Dom Pérignon for special editions of products, often with proceeds going to charity. He founded the Koons Family Institute, an initiative of the International Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Among his many honors, Koons was named an Officier de la Legion d'Honneur by the French government in 2010, an Honorary Member of the Royal Academy of the Arts in London in 2010, and Hillary Clinton presented him with the U.S. State Department's Medal of Arts in 2012. His work can be found in the permanent collections of many prestigious institutions in the United States, including: The Museum of Modern Art (New York); The Art Institute of Chicago; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Des Moines Art Center; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden (Washington, DC); Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Nasher Sculpture Center (Dallas); Seattle Art Museum; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (New York); and Whitney Museum of American Art (New York); as well as a number of important international institutions, such as: Tate Gallery (London); Astrup Fearnley Museet (Oslo, Norway); The National Gallery of Victoria (Melbourne, Australia); Staatsgalerie Stuttgart (Germany); Hamburger Kunsthalle (Germany); Museum Ludwig (Cologne, Germany); Museum of Contemporary Art (Tokyo); Stedelijk Museum (Amsterdam, The Netherlands).

### **Walter Annenberg Annual Lecture**

In honor of the late Walter H. Annenberg, philanthropist, patron of the arts, and former ambassador, the Whitney Museum of American Art established the Walter Annenberg Annual Lecture to advance this country's understanding of its art and culture. Support for this lecture and for public programs at the Whitney Museum is provided, in part, by Jack and Susan Rudin in honor of Beth Rudin DeWoody, public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, the Barker Welfare Foundation, and by members of the Whitney's Education Committee.

### **About the Whitney**

The Whitney Museum of American Art is the world's leading museum of twentieth-century and contemporary art of the United States. Focusing particularly on works by living artists, the Whitney is celebrated for presenting important exhibitions and for its renowned collection, which comprises over 21,000 works by more than 3,000 artists. With a history of exhibiting the most promising and influential artists and provoking intense debate, the Whitney Biennial, the Museum's signature exhibition, has become the most important survey of the state of contemporary art in the United States. In addition to its landmark exhibitions, the Museum is known internationally for events and educational programs of exceptional significance and as a center for research, scholarship, and conservation.

Founded by sculptor and arts patron Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney in 1930, the Whitney was first housed on West 8th Street in Greenwich Village. The Museum relocated in 1954 to West 54th Street and, in 1966, inaugurated its present home, designed by Marcel Breuer, at 945 Madison Avenue on the Upper East Side. While its vibrant program of exhibitions and events continues uptown, the Whitney is constructing a new home, designed by Renzo Piano, in downtown Manhattan. Located at the corner of

Gansevoort and Washington Streets in the Meatpacking District, at the southern entrance to the High Line, the new building, which has generated immense momentum and support, will enable the Whitney to vastly increase the size and scope of its exhibition and programming space. Ground was broken in May 2011, and the new building is projected to open to the public in spring 2015.

**Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art**

<i>Jeff Koons: A Retrospective</i>	Through–October 19, 2014
<i>Shaping a Collection: Five Decades of Gifts</i>	Through–October 19, 2014
<i>Edward Hopper and Photography</i>	Through–October 19, 2014
<i>Collecting Calder</i>	Through–October 19, 2014

The Whitney Museum is located at 945 Madison Avenue at 75th Street, New York City. Museum hours are: Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., closed Monday and Tuesday. General admission: \$20. Full-time students and visitors ages 19–25 and 62 & over: \$16. Visitors 18 & under and Whitney members: FREE. Admission is pay-what-you-wish on Fridays, 6–9 p.m. For general information, please call (212) 570-3600 or visit [whitney.org](http://whitney.org).