

# WHITNEY

## Press Release

Whitney Museum of American Art  
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The Whitney Museum's new building at Washington & Gansevoort Streets. Photograph by Jeff Levine

**NEW YORK, December 17, 2012**—Nineteen months after breaking ground on its Renzo Piano-designed building, the Whitney Museum today celebrated the topping out of its future home, which will bring its unparalleled collection of American art, special exhibitions, and cultural programs to downtown Manhattan in 2015. Adam D. Weinberg, the Museum's Alice Pratt Brown Director, was joined by New York City officials, Turner Construction employees, and Whitney trustees and staff to sign the final steel beam before it was lofted to its ninth-story perch, overlooking the High Line and Hudson River Park in the Meatpacking District. According to ironworker tradition, the construction team affixed a fir tree and an American flag to the 19-foot-long beam. The flag flew at half-mast and a "NY Loves Newtown" banner was attached to honor the victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy. With

this last beam in place, the outline of the 200,000-square-foot structure on the Manhattan skyline is complete.

“We’re delighted to share this milestone event with our partners at Turner Construction, Renzo Piano Building Workshop and Cooper Robertson & Partners,” said Weinberg. “The future Whitney will be an aspirational space where contemporary artists can realize their visions and audiences can connect deeply with art. We are enormously grateful to the City of New York, our Board of Trustees, and our many supporters.”

Since opening its doors in 1931 in nearby Greenwich Village, the Museum’s permanent collection has expanded from 2,000 works to more than 19,000. The new building, for which the Museum is seeking LEED-Gold certification, will allow the first comprehensive view of its renowned collection. It will also house state-of-the-art classrooms, a black box theater, a 170-seat theater, a Works on Paper Study Center, a Conservation Lab, a Library Reading Room, and an 18,000-square-foot exhibition space, which will be the largest column-free museum gallery in New York City. To date the Museum has raised \$552 million of the \$720 million project budget, which includes funds for both construction and endowment. The Whitney has already established a cultural footprint in the area, staging public art exhibitions and performances, and collaborating on projects with neighborhood organizations and businesses.

### **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 19,000 works by more than 2,900 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 building, 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 on the new building in May 2011, and it is projected to open to the public in 2015.

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

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| <b>...as apple pie</b>                            | Through early 2013        |
| <b>Wade Guyton OS</b>                             | Through January 13, 2013  |
| <b>Richard Artschwager!</b>                       | Through February 3, 2013  |
| <b>Trisha Baga: Plymouth Rock 2</b>               | Through January 13, 2013  |
| <b>Sinister Pop</b>                               | Through March 31, 2013    |
| <b>Dark and Deadpan: Pop in TV and the Movies</b> | Through March 31, 2013    |
| <b>Blues for Smoke</b>                            | February 7-April 28, 2013 |
| <b>Jay DeFeo: A Retrospective</b>                 | February 28-June 2, 2013  |

*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 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., closed Monday and Tuesday. General admission: \$18. Full-time students and visitors ages 19–25 and 62 & over: \$14. 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).*