

WHITNEY

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Press Release

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WHITNEY MUSEUM ANNOUNCES FOURTH ANNUAL ANNENBERG LECTURE:

JOHN BALDESSARI IN CONVERSATION WITH ADAM WEINBERG

The Walter Annenberg Annual Lecture

Thursday, November 20, 2008, 7 pm

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. In this fourth Annenberg Lecture, John Baldessari will speak about his work in conversation with Adam D. Weinberg, the Whitney's Alice Pratt Brown Director. For more than fifty years, Baldessari has masterfully juxtaposed painting, photography, sculpture, and other media to probe how meaning is created through images, objects, and text.

Admission is free but registration is required. Register at whitney.org. Seats will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

This lecture is made possible in part by generous gifts from the friends and family of Walter H. Annenberg.

About John Baldessari

John Baldessari was born in National City, California. He attended San Diego State University and did post-graduate work at Otis Art Institute and Chouinard Art Institute and U.C. Berkeley. He taught at the California Institute of the Arts in Valencia from 1970 to 1988 and at the University of California at Los Angeles from 1996 to 2007.

His art has been featured in more than 200 solo exhibitions in the U.S. and Europe and in over 750 group exhibitions. His projects include artist books, videos, films, billboards and public works. His awards include the Americans for the Arts lifetime achievement award, the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative, the Governor's Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Visual Arts in California, the Oscar Kokoschka Prize from Austria and the Spectrum-International Award for Photography of the Foundation of Lower Saxony, Germany. He was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters in May 2008, and the 2008 B.A.C.A. International. Baldessari has exhibited in numerous Whitney exhibitions since 1969 and was most recently included in the 2008 Whitney Biennial.

About the Whitney

The Whitney Museum of American Art is the leading advocate of 20th- and 21st-century American art. Founded in 1930, the Museum is regarded as the preeminent collection of American art and includes major works and materials from the estate of Edward Hopper, the largest public collection of works by Alexander Calder, as well as significant works by Jasper Johns, Donald Judd, Agnes Martin, Bruce Nauman, Georgia O'Keeffe, Claes Oldenburg, Kiki Smith, and Andy Warhol, among other artists. With its history of exhibiting the most promising and influential American artists and provoking intense critical and public debate, the Whitney's signature show, the Biennial, has become the most important survey of the state of contemporary art in America today. First housed on West 8th Street, the Whitney relocated in 1954 to West 54th Street and in 1966 inaugurated its present home at 945 Madison Avenue, designed by Marcel Breuer. The Whitney is currently moving ahead with plans to build a second facility, designed by Renzo Piano, located in downtown New York at the entrance to the High Line in the Meatpacking District.

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

William Eggleston	November 7, 2008-January 25, 2009
Alexander Calder: The Paris Years	Through February 15, 2009
"Progress"	Through January 4, 2009
Between the Still and Moving Image	Through January 4, 2009
Corin Hewitt: Seed Stage	Through January 4, 2009
Signs of the Time	Through January 11, 2009
Jenny Holzer	March 12, 2009-May 31, 2009

The Whitney Museum is located at 945 Madison Avenue, 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. Admission is \$15 for adults; Members, children (ages 11 and under), and New York City public high school students free. Senior citizens (62 and over) and students with valid ID: \$10. There is a \$6 admission fee for a pass to the Kaufman Astoria Studios Film & Video Gallery only. Admission is pay-what-you-wish on Fridays, 6-9 pm. For information, please call 212-570-3600 or visit whitney.org