

WHITNEY

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Press Release

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ARTISTS SELECTED FOR 2008 WHITNEY BIENNIAL, OPENING MARCH 6

New York, March 4, 2008 – Eighty-one artists are participating in the 2008 Whitney Biennial, which opens at the Whitney Museum of American Art, 945 Madison Avenue at 75th Street, on March 6, and runs through June 1, 2008. Installations and performances organized by the Whitney and Art Production Fund, will also be presented in association with Park Avenue Armory (67th Street) from March 6–23.

Since its founding in 1932, the Biennial has evolved into the Whitney's signature exhibition as well as the most important survey of the state of contemporary art in the United States today. The exhibition will occupy the entire Museum, with the exception of the fifth floor, which is devoted to the permanent collection. For the first time, the Biennial will expand beyond the Museum's Breuer building into Park Avenue Armory's monumental Drill Hall and historic period rooms, creating an opportunity to present works that could not be accommodated within the Whitney's walls and remaining true to the fluid, interactive way in which these works were conceived.

The 2008 Biennial is curated by Henriette Huldish, Assistant Curator at the Whitney, and Shamim M. Momin, Associate Curator at the Whitney and Branch Director and Curator of the Whitney Museum at Altria, and overseen by Donna De Salvo, the Whitney's Chief Curator and Associate Director for Programs. Three advisors worked with the curatorial team throughout the process: Thelma Golden, Director and Chief Curator of The Studio Museum in Harlem; Bill Horigan, Director

of the Media Arts department at the Wexner Center for the Arts at Ohio State University; and Linda Norden, independent curator and writer.

Donna De Salvo noted, "The Biennial is a laboratory, a way of 'taking the temperature' of what is happening now and putting it on view. It influences our thinking on multiple levels and, for the Whitney, translates directly into the choices we make about our exhibitions and collections. In dealing with the art of the present, there are no easy assessments, only multiple points of entry. For the Whitney, and for our public, we hope the Biennial is one way in."

History

The prototype for the Biennial debuted soon after Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney opened the Whitney Studio Club in Greenwich Village in 1918. At a time when American artists were struggling to free themselves from the prevailing art and culture of Europe, the Studio Club was an alternative space where artists could gather and display their works in annual survey exhibitions. These small, early versions of the Biennial created the first major public forum for contemporary American art, as well as a means for the advancement and assimilation of modernism into the predominantly realist tradition of American art. Many artists who would later be counted among the most important figures in 20th-century American art had their first exhibition opportunities at the Whitney, including Milton Avery, Philip Guston, Edward Hopper, and Georgia O'Keeffe.

In 1931 the Whitney Museum of American Art opened to the public, and the first Whitney Biennial was introduced in 1932. The 2008 Biennial will be the 74th in the series of Whitney Annual and Biennial exhibitions held since 1932, the same year that the Museum established an acquisition fund for purchases from each Biennial exhibition. The early Biennials alternated painting with sculpture and works on paper; selections were made, at first, by the artists and then by curators. In 1937, the program was changed to Annual exhibitions of separate media (painting displayed in the fall, and sculpture and other media in the spring). In 1973 the current program of Biennials of combined media was instated.

Artists

These are the artists selected for the 2008 Whitney Biennial:

Rita Ackermann

Born 1968 in Budapest, Hungary

Lives in New York, New York

Natalia Almada

Born 1974 in Mexico

Lives in Mexico City, Mexico and New York, New York

Edgar Arceneaux

Born 1972 in Los Angeles, California

Lives in Los Angeles, California

Fia Backström

Born 1970 in Stockholm, Sweden

Lives in New York, New York

John Baldessari

Born 1931 in National City, California

Lives in Santa Monica, California

Robert Bechtle

Born 1932 in San Francisco, California

Lives in San Francisco, California

Walead Beshty

Born 1976 in London, England

Lives in Los Angeles, California

Carol Bove

Born 1971 in Geneva, Switzerland

Lives in New York, New York

Joe Bradley

Born 1975 in Old Orchard Beach, Maine

Lives in New York, New York

Matthew Brannon

Born 1971 in Saint Maries, Idaho

Lives in New York, New York

Bozidar Brazda

Born 1972 in Cambridge, Canada

Lives in New York, New York

Olaf Breuning
Born 1970 in Schaffhausen, Switzerland
Lives in New York, New York

Jedediah Caesar
Born 1973 in Oakland, California
Lives in Los Angeles, California

William Cordova
Born 1971 in Lima, Peru
Lives in Houston, Texas and Miami, Florida

Dexter Sinister
Stuart Bailey
Born 1973 in York, England
David Reinfurt
Born 1971 in Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Based in New York, New York

Harry (Harriet) Dodge and Stanya Kahn
Born 1966 and 1968, respectively, in San Francisco, California
Live in Los Angeles, California

Shannon Ebner
Born 1971 in Englewood, New Jersey
Lives in Los Angeles, California

Gardar Eide Einarsson
Born 1976 in Oslo, Norway
Lives in New York, New York

Roe Ethridge
Born 1969 in Miami, Florida
Lives in New York, New York

Kevin Jerome Everson
Born 1965 in Mansfield, Ohio
Lives in Charlottesville, Virginia

Omer Fast
Born 1972 in Jerusalem, Israel
Lives in Berlin, Germany

Robert Fenz
Born 1969 in Ann Arbor, Michigan
Lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts

Coco Fusco
Born 1960 in New York, New York
Lives in New York, New York

Gang Gang Dance
Lizzi Bougatsos, Brian DeGraw, Tim DeWit, Josh Diamond, Nathan Maddox
Founded 2001-02 in New York, New York
Based in New York, New York

Amy Granat and Drew Heitzler
Born 1976 in St. Louis, Missouri, and born 1972 in Charleston, South Carolina,
respectively
Live in New York, NY, and Los Angeles, California, respectively

Rashawn Griffin
Born 1980 in Los Angeles, California
Lives in New York, New York

Adler Guerrier
Born 1975 in Port-au-Prince, Haiti
Lives in Miami, Florida

MK Guth
Born 1963 in Stevens Point, Wisconsin
Lives in Portland, Oregon

Fritz Haeg
Born 1969 in St. Cloud, Minnesota
Lives in Los Angeles, California

Rachel Harrison
Born 1966 in New York, New York
Lives in New York, New York

Ellen Harvey
Born 1967 in Kent, England
Lives in New York, New York

Mary Heilmann
Born 1940 in San Francisco, California
Lives in New York, New York

Leslie Hewitt
Born 1977 in New York, New York
Lives in New York, New York and Houston, Texas

Patrick Hill
Born 1972 in Royal Oak, Michigan
Lives in Los Angeles, California

William E. Jones
Born 1962 in Canton, Ohio
Lives in Los Angeles, California

Karen Kilimnik
Born 1955 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Alice Könitz
Born 1970 in Essen, Germany
Lives in Los Angeles, California

Louise Lawler
Born 1947 in Bronxville, New York
Lives in New York, New York

Spike Lee
Born 1957 in Atlanta, Georgia
Lives in New York, New York

Sherrie Levine
Born 1947 in Hazleton, Pennsylvania
Lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico and New York, New York

Charles Long
Born 1958 in Long Branch, New Jersey
Lives in Los Angeles, California

Lucky Dragons
Luke Fischbeck, born 1978 in San Francisco, California
Lives in Los Angeles, California

Daniel Joseph Martinez
Born 1957 in Los Angeles, California
Lives in Los Angeles, California

Corey McCorkle
Born 1969 in La Crosse, Wisconsin
Lives in New York, New York

Rodney McMillian
Born 1969 in Columbia, South Carolina
Lives in Los Angeles, California

Julia Meltzer and David Thorne

Born 1968 in Hollywood, California, and born 1960 in Boston, Massachusetts

Lives in Los Angeles, California

Jennifer Montgomery

Born 1961 in New York, New York

Lives in Chicago, Illinois

Olivier Mosset

Born 1944 in Bern, Switzerland

Lives in Tucson, Arizona

Matt Mullican

Born 1951 in Santa Monica, California

Lives in New York, New York

Neighborhood Public Radio (NPR)

Formed 2004 in Oakland, California

Based in Oakland, San Francisco, and San Diego, California, and Chicago, Illinois

Ruben Ochoa

Born 1974 in Oceanside, California

Lives in Los Angeles, California

DJ Olive

Born 1961 in Boston, Massachusetts

Lives in New York, New York

Mitzi Pederson

Born 1976 in Stuart, Florida

Lives in San Francisco, California

Kembra Pfahler/The Voluptuous Horror of Karen Black

Born 1961 in Hermosa Beach, California

Lives in New York, New York

Seth Price

Born 1973 in East Jerusalem

Lives in New York, New York

Stephen Prina

Born 1954 in Galesburg, Illinois

Lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts and Los Angeles, California

Adam Putnam
Born 1973 in New York, New York
Lives in New York, New York

Michael Queenland
Born 1970 in Pasadena, California
Lives in New York, New York

Jason Rhoades
Born 1965, Newcastle, California
Died 2006, Los Angeles, California

Ry Rocklen
Born 1978 in Los Angeles, California
Lives in Los Angeles, California

Bert Rodriguez
Born 1975 in Miami, Florida
Lives in Miami, Florida

Marina Rosenfeld
Born 1968 in New York, New York
Lives in New York, New York

Amanda Ross-Ho
Born 1975 in Chicago, Illinois
Lives in Los Angeles, California

Mika Rottenberg
Born 1976 in Buenos Aires, Argentina
Lives in New York, New York

Heather Rowe
Born 1970 in New Haven, Connecticut
Lives in New York, New York

Eduardo Sarabia
Born 1976 in Los Angeles, California
Lives in Los Angeles, California, Guadalajara, Mexico, and Berlin, Germany

Melanie Schiff
Born 1977 in Chicago, Illinois
Lives in Chicago, Illinois

Amie Siegel
Born 1974 in Chicago, Illinois
Lives in New York, New York and Berlin, Germany

Lisa Sigal
Born 1962 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Lives in New York, New York

Gretchen Skogerson
Born 1970 in Teaneck, New Jersey
Lives in New York, New York

Michael Smith
Born 1951 in Chicago, Illinois
Lives in New York, New York and Austin, Texas

Agathe Snow
Born 1976 in Corsica, France
Lives in New York, New York

Frances Stark
Born 1967 in Newport Beach, California
Lives in Los Angeles, California

Mika Tajima/New Humans
Mika Tajima
Born 1975 in Los Angeles, California
Lives in New York, New York
Howie Chen
Born 1976 in Cincinnati, Ohio
Lives in New York, New York

Javier Téllez
Born 1969 in Valencia, Venezuela
Lives in New York, New York

Cheyney Thompson
Born 1975 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Lives in New York, New York

Mungo Thomson
Born 1969 in Woodland, California
Lives in Berlin, Germany and Los Angeles, California

Leslie Thornton
Born 1951 in Oak Ridge, Tennessee
Lives in New York, New York

Phoebe Washburn
Born 1973 in Poughkeepsie, New York
Lives in New York, New York

James Welling
Born 1951 in Hartford, Connecticut
Lives in Los Angeles, California

Mario Ybarra Jr.
Born 1973 in Los Angeles, California
Lives in Los Angeles, California

Catalog

The 2008 Biennial catalog includes essays by Biennial curators Henriette Huldish and Shamim M. Momin, as well as a specially commissioned essay by Rebecca Solnit, a writer, historian, and activist. In one section of the book, short texts accompany reproductions of each artist's work; other sections present documentation of the artists' diverse methods and practices as represented in the Biennial exhibition. The book, designed by Miko McGinty, will be distributed by Yale University Press.

Armory Hours and Further Information

The Park Avenue Armory is located at 643 Park Avenue, New York City. Park Avenue Armory hours are from 12 to 8 p.m. daily; earlier and later for performances and events. Admission is free. Space at events is limited; admission is on a first-come, first-served basis, unless otherwise noted. For information, please visit www.whitney.org/biennial.

The Bucksbaum Award

During the course of the 2008 Biennial, the fifth Bucksbaum Award will be given. Endowed by Whitney trustee Melva Bucksbaum and her family, The Bucksbaum Award is an honor given to an artist chosen from among those in the Biennial. It includes a grant of \$100,000 and an exhibition at the Whitney. Mark Bradford was the most recent recipient in 2006. Previous recipients were Raymond Pettibon in 2004, Irit Batsry in 2002, and Paul Pfeiffer in 2000.

Funders

Made possible in part by



New and commissioned work is sponsored by **Deutsche Bank** 

Significant funding for the *2008 Biennial* is provided by an endowment created by Melva Bucksbaum, Emily Fisher Landau, and Leonard A. Lauder.

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Significant support is provided by Park Avenue Armory.

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, Louise Nevelson, and Lucas Samaras, 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.

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

The Whitney's Collection	Opened January 2008
Demuth's Late Paintings of Lancaster	February 23-April 27, 2008
2008 Whitney Biennial	March 6-June 1, 2008
Polaroids: Mapplethorpe	May 3-September 7, 2008
Buckminster Fuller: Starting with the Universe	June 26-September 21, 2008
Alexander Calder: The Paris Years	October 16, 2008-February 15, 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 1-800 WHITNEY or visit www.whitney.org