

WHITNEY

Whitney Museum
of American Art
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PRESS RELEASE



Rendering of the project, *Day's End*. Courtesy Guy Nordenson and Associates

WHITNEY RECEIVES GRANT FROM THE KEITH HARING FOUNDATION FOR DAVID HAMMONS'S PUBLIC ART PROJECT ON GANSEVOORT PENINSULA

NEW YORK, November 21, 2019— The Whitney Museum of American Art announced that it has received a \$1 million grant from the Keith Haring Foundation to support an important new public art project by David Hammons. Entitled *Day's End*, the project is currently under construction and is set to be unveiled in September 2020.

David Hammons's *Day's End* pays tribute to Gordon Matta-Clark's legendary work of the same name, a series of giant cutouts that Matta-Clark made in 1975 into the shell of a dilapidated pier shed that stood at that time on the Hudson River. Occupying the same site, this major new public artwork by Hammons traces the outline of the original pier shed in slender steel beams. It will appear to float on the river, completely open to the sky and the water, encouraging viewers to connect the past, present, and future of the waterfront and the neighborhood. The gift from the Haring Foundation joins significant support from the City of New York and the State of New York, the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund, and the Robert W. Wilson Charitable Trust, among many other funders. The installation is being undertaken in partnership with the Hudson River Park Trust, which will own the work when it is completed.

"This generous grant from the Keith Haring Foundation helps propel us toward the realization of an extraordinary vision that David Hammons brought to the Whitney," said Adam D. Weinberg, the Museum's Alice Pratt Brown Director. "*Day's End* is going to be an important and exciting artwork, an amazing addition to the waterfront, to this neighborhood and community, and to the City of New York. We are deeply grateful to the Haring Foundation for recognizing the importance of this project. We couldn't achieve this without their support."

The idea for the *Day's End* project came about when David Hammons visited the Whitney's new downtown building for the first time. Looking out the western windows at the Hudson, Hammons recalled the artist Gordon Matta-Clark, who in 1975 had made the original *Day's End* directly across the street from the Museum's new location. Conceiving a work that allowed the light from the sky to pour in, Matta-Clark created what he called "a sun-and-water temple"

and named it *Day's End*. Though the work and the building stood for only a few years before being demolished, *Day's End* has found a place in the imaginations of generations of artists and New Yorkers to this day.

The Keith Haring Foundation's partnership with the Whitney extends back many years. The Foundation has been among the most consistent supporters of Youth Insights, the Museum's award-winning program for teens, which brings high school students from across New York City together with artists and educators, to learn about art, develop their own practice, and connect both with new ideas and new peers. The first Youth Insights program was piloted at the Whitney in the summer of 1997 at the time of the Museum's landmark Keith Haring retrospective. Over the years, a major endowment from the Foundation has supported the Whitney's work in presenting innovative exhibitions by artists at all stages of their careers—from Laura Poitras to Jimmie Durham and currently Rachel Harrison and Pope.L. The Foundation also supported *Hélio Oiticica: To Organize Delirium*, as well as the past two Whitney Biennials, in 2017 and 2019. In conjunction with the exhibition *David Wojnarowicz: History Keeps Me Awake at Night*, the Foundation helped underwrite the symposium "Visual Arts and the AIDS Epidemic," co-organized with the Smithsonian's Archives of American Art in July 2018, on the occasion of the launch of the Archives' Oral History Project of the same name. The symposium brought together artists and activists from the 1980s and 1990s to discuss the impact, both then and now, of the AIDS crisis.

About the Keith Haring Foundation

Keith Haring (1958-1990) generously contributed his talents and resources to numerous causes. He conducted art workshops with children, created logos and posters for public service agencies, and produced murals, sculptures, and paintings to benefit health centers and communities in need. In 1989, Haring established a foundation to ensure that his philanthropic legacy would continue indefinitely.

The Keith Haring Foundation makes grants to not-for-profit organizations that engage in charitable and educational activities, supporting agencies that enrich the lives of young people and provide resources to those impacted by HIV/AIDS.

Keith Haring additionally charged the Foundation with maintaining and protecting his artistic legacy after his death. The Foundation maintains a collection of art along with archives that facilitate historical research about the artist and the times and places in which he lived and worked. The Foundation supports arts and educational institutions by funding exhibitions, programming, and publications that serve to contextualize and illuminate the artist's work and philosophy. www.haring.com.

About the Whitney

The Whitney Museum of American Art, founded in 1930 by the artist and philanthropist Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney (1875–1942), houses the foremost collection of American art from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Mrs. Whitney, an early and ardent supporter of modern American art, nurtured groundbreaking artists at a time when audiences were still largely preoccupied with the Old Masters. From her vision arose the Whitney Museum of American Art, which has been championing the most innovative art of the United States for more than eighty years. The core of the Whitney's mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit American art of our time and serve a wide variety of audiences in celebration of the complexity and diversity of art and culture in the United States. Through this mission and a steadfast commitment to artists themselves, the Whitney has long been a powerful force in support of modern and contemporary art and continues to help define what is innovative and influential in American art today.

Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art

The Whitney's Collection: Selections from 1900 to 1965	Ongoing
Jason Moran	Through January 5, 2020
Order and Ornament: Roy Lichtenstein's Entablatures	Through March 2020
Pope.L: Choir	Through Winter 2020
Rachel Harrison Life Hack	Through January 12, 2020
Alan Michelson: Wolf Nation	Through January 12, 2020
Making Knowing: Craft in Art 1950–2019	November 22, 2019–January 2021
fruits, vegetables; fruit and vegetable salad	January 15–February 16, 2020
Cauleen Smith: Mutualities	February 17–May 17, 2020
Vida Americana: Mexican Muralists Remake American Art, 1925–1945	February 17–May 17, 2020
Jill Mulleady	On View March 2020
Salman Toor: How Will I Know	March 20–July 5, 2020
Agnes Pelton: Desert Transcendentalist	March 13–June 21, 2020
Dave McKenzie: The Story I Tell Myself	April–May 2020

Prints from Everyday Objects
Julie Mehretu
Working Together: The Photographers of the Kamoinge Workshop
Around Day's End: Downtown New York, 1970–1986
My Barbarian
Public Art Project: David Hammons: Day's End
Jasper Johns
Dawoud Bey: An American Project

June–September 2020
June 26–September 20, 2020
July–October 2020
July–October 2020
Opens September 2020
Opens September 2020
Opens October 28, 2020
Opens November 2020

The Whitney Museum of American Art is located at 99 Gansevoort Street between Washington and West Streets, New York City. Museum hours are: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday from 10:30 am to 6 pm; Friday from 10:30 am to 10 pm. Closed Tuesday. Adults: \$25. Full-time students and visitors 65 & over: \$18. Visitors 18 years & under and Whitney members: FREE. Admission is pay-what-you-wish on Fridays, 7–10 pm. For general information, please call (212) 570-3600 or visit whitney.org.

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