

Whitney Museum of American Art

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James N. Kienitz Wilkins, still from B-ROLL with Andre, 2015. High-definition video, color, sound; 19 min. Collection of the artist; courtesy the artist

2017 WHITNEY BIENNIAL, THE FIRST TO TAKE PLACE IN THE MUSEUM'S DOWNTOWN BUILDING, **TO OPEN MARCH 17**

NEW YORK, November 17, 2016 - The formation of self and the individual's place in a turbulent society are among the key themes reflected in the work of the artists selected for the 2017 Whitney Biennial, opening at the Whitney Museum of American Art on March 17, and running through June 11. Curated by the Whitney's Nancy and Fred Poses Associate Curator Christopher Y. Lew and independent curator Mia Locks, this will be the first Biennial held in the Whitney's home in the Meatpacking District. The country's preeminent survey of the current state of American art, this is the seventy-eighth in the Museum's ongoing series of Annuals and Biennials, initiated by Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney in 1932.

Lew and Locks named the sixty-three participants, whose works will fill two of the four main gallery floors of the Whitney (including the 18,000-square-foot Neil Bluhm Family Galleries on the fifth floor) and numerous other spaces throughout the Museum. The participants range from emerging to wellestablished individuals and collectives working in painting, sculpture, drawing, installation, film and video, photography, activism, performance, music, and video game design.

Scott Rothkopf, the Whitney's Nancy and Steve Crown Family Chief Curator and Deputy Director for Programs, said, "Since we opened our new building, we've reignited our emerging artist program with venturesome solo premieres and 'snapshot' shows of new tendencies. This Biennial, the largest ever in terms of gallery space, marks the capstone of these efforts. Chris and Mia have done an amazing job scouring the country to discover new talents, while creating lively connections to senior figures and our roiling social landscape."

Lew commented that, "Throughout our research and travel we've been moved by the impassioned discussions we had about recent tumult in society, politics, and the economic system. It's been unavoidable as we met with artists, fellow curators, writers, and other cultural producers across the United States and beyond." Locks noted: "Against this backdrop, many of the participating artists are asking probing questions about the self and the social, and where these intersect. How do we think and live through these lenses? How and where do they fall short?"

Rothkopf is leading a team of advisors who are working closely with Lew and Locks to help shape the exhibition. They include: Negar Azimi, writer and senior editor at Bidoun, an award-winning publishing, curatorial, and educational initiative with a focus on the Middle East and its diasporas; Gean Moreno, curator of programs at the Institute of Contemporary Art Miami and founder of [NAME] Publications; Aily Nash, co-curator of Projections, the New York Film Festival's artists's film and video section, and Film and Media Curator at Basilica Hudson; and Wendy Yao, a publisher and founder of both the exhibition space 356 South Mission Road and Ooga Booga, a shop with two Los Angeles locations that specializes in independent books, music, art, and clothing. Nash, together with the curators, is co-organizing the Biennial film program, which will screen in the Whitney's third-floor Susan and John Hess Family Theater.

The 2017 Biennial will be accompanied by an exhibition catalogue, designed by Olga Casellas Badillo of San Juan-based Tiguere Corp., which includes essays by the curators as well as Biennial advisors Negar Azimi and Gean Moreno, a conversation between the curators and Scott Rothkopf, and a roundtable with filmmakers moderated by Aily Nash. The book will also feature individual entries on each of the sixty-three participants in the exhibition along with reproductions of their work. It will be published by the Whitney Museum of American Art and distributed by Yale University Press.

The full list of artists follows:

Zarouhie Abdalian

Born 1982 in New Orleans, LA Lives in New Orleans, LA

Basma Alsharif

Born 1983 in Kuwait City. Kuwait Lives in Los Angeles, CA

Jo Baer

Born 1929 in Seattle, WA Lives in Amsterdam, Netherlands

Eric Baudelaire

Born 1973 in Salt Lake City, UT Lives in Paris, France

Robert Beavers

Born 1949 in Brookline, MA Lives in Berlin, Germany and Falmouth, MA

Larry Bell

Born 1939 in Chicago, IL Lives in Taos, NM and Los Angeles, CA

Matt Browning

Born 1984 in Redmond, WA Lives in Seattle, WA

Susan Cianciolo

Born 1969 in Providence, RI Lives in Brooklyn, NY

Mary Helena Clark

Born 1983 in Santee, SC Lives in Hamilton, NY

John Divola

Born 1949 in Santa Monica, CA Lives in Riverside, CA

Born 1979 in New York, NY Lives in Los Angeles, CA

Celeste Dupuy-Spencer

Born 1981 in Los Angeles, CA Lives in Los Angeles, CA

Kevin Jerome Everson

Born 1965 in Mansfield, OH Lives in Charlottesville, VA

GCC

(Nanu Al-Hamad, Abdullah Al-Mutairi, Aziz Algatami, Barrak Alzaid, Khalid al Gharaballi, Amal Khalaf, Fatima Al Qadiri, Monira Al Qadiri) Founded 2013

Oto Gillen

Born 1984 in New York, NY Lives in New York, NY

Samara Golden

Born 1973 in Ann Arbor, MI Lives in Los Angeles, CA

Casey Gollan and Victoria Sobel

Born 1991 in Los Angeles, CA; born 1990 in Washington, DC Lives in New York, NY; lives in New York, NY

Irena Haiduk

Biographical information not given

Lyle Ashton Harris

Born 1965 in Bronx, NY Lives in New York, NY

Tommy Hartung

Born 1979 in Akron, OH Lives in Queens, NY

Porpentine Charity Heartscape

Born 1987, location not given Lives in Oakland, CA

Sky Hopinka

Born 1984 in Bellingham, WA Lives in Milwaukee, WI

Shara Hughes

Born 1981 in Atlanta, GA Lives in Brooklyn, NY

Aaron Flint Jamison

Born 1979 in Billings, MT Lives in Portland, OR and Seattle, WA

KAYA

(Kerstin Brätsch and Debo Eilers) Founded 2010

Jon Kessler

Born 1957 in Yonkers, NY Lives in New York, NY

James N. Kienitz Wilkins

Born in 1983 in Boston, MA Lives in Brooklyn, NY

Ajay Kurian

Born 1984 in Baltimore, MD Lives in Brooklyn, NY

Deana Lawson

Born 1979 in Rochester, NY Lives Brooklyn, NY

An-My Lê

Born 1960 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam Lives in Brooklyn, NY

Leigh Ledare

Born 1976 in Seattle, WA Lives in New York, NY

Dani Leventhal

Born 1972 in Columbus, OH Lives in Columbus, OH

Tala Madani

Born 1981 in Tehran, Iran Lives in Los Angeles, CA

Park McArthur

Born 1984 in Raleigh, NC Lives in New York, NY

Harold Mendez

Born 1977 in Chicago, IL Lives in Chicago, IL and Los Angeles, CA

Carrie Moyer

Born 1960 in Detroit, MI Lives in New York, NY

Ulrike Müller

Born 1971 in Brixlegg, Austria Lives in Brooklyn, NY

Julien Nguyen

Born 1990 in Washington, DC Lives in Los Angeles, CA

Tuan Andrew Nguyen

Born 1976 in Saigon, Vietnam Lives in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Raúl de Nieves

Born 1983 in Morelia, Mexico Lives in Brooklyn, NY

Aliza Nisenbaum

Born 1977 in Mexico City, Mexico Lives in New York, NY

Occupy Museums

(Arthur Polendo, Imani Jacqueline Brown, Kenneth Pietrobono, Noah Fischer, and Tal Beery) Founded 2011

Pope.L aka William Pope.L

Born 1955 in Newark, NJ Lives in Chicago, IL

Postcommodity

(Raven Chacon, Cristóbal Martínez, Kade L. Twist) Founded 2007

Puppies Puppies

Born 1989 in Dallas, TX Lives in Roswell, NM

Asad Raza

Born 1974 in Buffalo, NY Lives in New York, NY

Jessi Reaves

Born 1986 in Portland, OR Lives in Brooklyn, NY

John Riepenhoff

Born 1982 in Milwaukee, WI Lives in Milwaukee, WI

Chemi Rosado-Seijo

Born 1973 in Vega Alta, PR Lives in San Juan and Naranjito, PR

Cameron Rowland

Born 1988 in Philadelphia, PA Lives in Queens, NY

Beatriz Santiago Muñoz

Born 1972 in San Juan, PR Lives in San Juan, PR

Dana Schutz

Born 1976 in Livonia, MI Lives in Brooklyn, NY

Cauleen Smith

Born 1967 in Riverside, CA Lives in Chicago, IL

Frances Stark

Born 1967 in Newport Beach, CA Lives in Los Angeles, CA

Maya Stovall

Born 1982 in Detroit, MI Lives in Detroit, MI **Henry Taylor**

Born 1958 in Oxnard, CA Lives in Los Angeles, CA

Torey Thornton

Born 1990 in Macon, GA Lives in Brooklyn, NY

Leslie Thornton and James Richards

Born 1951 in Knoxville, TN; born 1983 in Cardiff, United Kingdom Lives in Brooklyn, NY; lives in Berlin, Germany and London, United Kingdom

Kaari Upson

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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.

Born 1972 in San Bernardino, CA Lives in Los Angeles, CA

Kamasi Washington

Born 1981 in Los Angeles, CA Lives in Los Angeles, CA

Leilah Weinraub

Born 1979 in Los Angeles, CA Lives in Los Angeles, CA and New York, NY

Jordan Wolfson

Born 1980 in New York, NY Lives in New York, NY

Anicka Yi

Born 1971 in Seoul, South Korea Lives in Queens, NY