

WHITNEY

Whitney Museum
of American Art
Press Office

99 Gansevoort Street
New York, NY 10014

pressoffice@whitney.org
(212) 570-3633

PRESS RELEASE

CELEBRATING *WHITNEY BIENNIAL 2026* AT THE WHITNEY MUSEUM



Photos by Jason Lowrie/BFA.com

New York, NY, March 5, 2026 — On Tuesday, March 3, the Whitney Museum of American Art welcomed supporters from the worlds of art, fashion, music, entertainment, and philanthropy for an electrifying evening to celebrate the opening of [Whitney Biennial 2026](#). The 82nd edition of the Museum's landmark exhibition series and the longest-running survey of American art features [fifty-six artists, duos, and collectives](#) across most of the Museum's galleries bringing together artists working across media and disciplines, reflecting evolving notions of American art. *Whitney Biennial 2026* opens to the public on March 8.

Whitney Biennial 2026 Opening Events

March 3 Opening Party images are available for download here:

bfa.com/events/53520/share/c0a81661715b49

Photos by Darian DiCianno & Jason Lowrie/BFA.com



From left to right: Malcolm Peacock; Kekahi Wahi, Léuli Eshraghi, Julia Eilers Smith
Photos by Darian DiCianno & Jason Lowrie/BFA.com



From left to right: Dionne Lee, Gabriel Burkett, Eric Booker; Ash Arder
Photos by Darian DiCianno & Jason Lowrie/BFA.com

Whitney Biennial 2026 offers a vivid, atmospheric survey shaped by a moment of profound complexity. The work on view examines varied forms of relationality, from interspecies and familial kinships to geopolitical entanglements, technological affinities, shared mythologies, and the infrastructures that support and constrain contemporary life. Rather than offering a definitive answer to life today, the exhibition foregrounds mood and texture, inviting visitors into environments that evoke tension, tenderness, humor, and unease, while proposing imaginative, unruly, and unexpected forms of coexistence.

On Tuesday, March 3, the Museum hosted a vibrant opening party that welcomed an exciting mix of artists, curators, gallerists, influencers, museum leaders, philanthropists, and tastemakers. Throughout the evening, guests were given the opportunity to view *Whitney Biennial 2026* on the Museum's fifth and sixth floors along with its lobby gallery and a *Hyundai Terrace Commission: Kelly Akashi* on the fifth-floor terrace.



From left to right: Emilie Louise Gossiaux; Onyedika Chuke; Pat Oleszko
Photos by Darian DiCianno & Jason Lowrie/BFA.com



From left to right: Arianna Huffington, I.D. Aruede; Gene Fedorko, Rachel Rossin, Gabrielle Richardson
Photos by Darian DiCianno & Jason Lowrie/BFA.com



From left to right: Ian Bradley; Scott Rothkopf, Tony Simone; Anna Tsouhlarakis
Photos by Darian DiCianno & Jason Lowrie/BFA.com

Notable guests included **2026 Biennial artists** Kelly Akashi, Kamrooz Aram, Ash Arder, Teresa Baker, Sula Bermudez-Silverman, Zach Blas, Drew Kahu'aina Broderick (kekahi wahi), Enzo Camacho, Nani Chacon, Maia Chao, Daniel Chew (CFGNY), Joshua Citarella, Mo Costello, Leo Castañeda, Taína H. Cruz, Carmen de Monteflores, Ali Eyal, Andrea Fraser, Mariah Garnett, Ignacio Gatica, Jonathan González, Emilie Louise Gossiaux, Kainoa Gruspe, Martine Gutierrez, Raven Halfmoon, Nile Harris, Margaret Honda, Akira Ikezoe, Ten Izu (CFGNY), Cooper Jacoby, David L. Johnson, Young Joon Kwak, Ami Lien, Michelle Lopez, Oswaldo Maciá, Emilio Martínez Poppe, Isabelle Frances McGuire, Nour Mobarak, Erin Jane Nelson, Tin Nguyen (CFGNY), Precious Okoyomon, Pat Oleszko, Aki Onda, Malcolm Peacock, Dyer Rhoads, Sarah M. Rodriguez, Gabriela Ruiz, Sancia Miala Shiba Nash (kekahi wahi), Jamin Sian, Jordan Strafer, Sung Tieu, Anna Tsouhlarakis, Julio Torres, Johanna Unzueta; **2026 Biennial curators** Marcela Guerrero and Drew Sawyer; **2026 Biennial curatorial assistants** Beatriz Cifuentes and Carina Martinez; **Artists** Candida Alvarez, American Artist, Raven Chacon, Jon Gray, Lotus Kang, Simone Leigh, Maya Man, Kambui Olujimi, Grace Roasrio Perkins, Rachel Rossin, Ilana Savdie, Ser Serpas, Edra Soto, Salman Toor, Kiyan Williams, Dustin Yellin, Ashley Zelinskie, Marina Zurkow; **Museum supporters** Paul Arnhold, Anne-Cecilie Engell Speyer, Miyoung Lee, Rosemary McNeely, Peter Scantland, Fern Tessler, David Zalaznick; **New York State Senator** Erik Boettcher; **New York Assemblymember** Tony Simone; **Supporters of the arts** Alexander Hankin, Arianna Huffington, JiaJia Fei, Molly Krause, Gabrielle Richardson; **Whitney curators** Kim Conaty, Chrissie Iles, Dan Nadel, Meg Onli, Christiane Paul; **Whitney Deputy Director** I.D. Aruede; and **Alice Pratt Brown Director of the Whitney Museum** Scott Rothkopf.



From left to right: Drew Sawyer; Sloane Ebbay, Ten Izu; Michael Stipe
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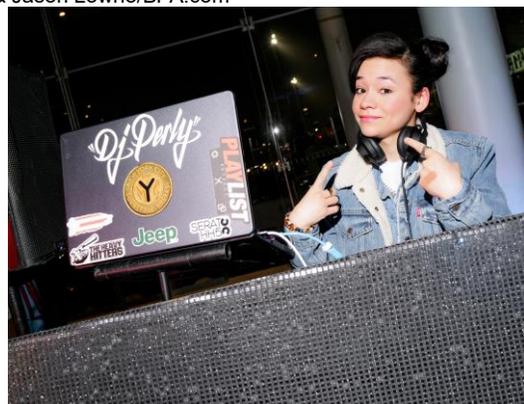


From left to right: Young Joon Kwak; Jaylen Ross, Wesley Chavis; Carmen de Monteflores, Andrea Fraser
Photos by Darian DiCianno & Jason Lowrie/BFA.com



From left to right: Dyer Rhoads, Nile Harris; Vivian Crockett, Marcela Guerrero

Photos by Darian DiCianno & Jason Lowrie/BFA.com



From left to right: DJ Perly
Photos by Darian DiCianno & Jason Lowrie/BFA.com

ABOUT THE WHITNEY BIENNIAL

A constellation of the most relevant art and ideas of our time, the Whitney Biennial showcases contemporary artists working across media and disciplines, representing evolving notions of American art. Established by the Museum's founder, Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, in 1932, the Whitney Biennial is the longest-running survey of American art. More than 3,600 artists have participated to date, including Jean-Michel Basquiat, Lynda Benglis, Louise Bourgeois, Frank

Bowling, Mark Bradford, Alexander Calder, Theresa Hak Kyung Cha, Raven Chacon, Ellen Gallagher, Nikita Gale, Jeffrey Gibson, Nan Goldin, Renee Green, Wade Guyton, Rachel Harrison, Jenny Holzer, Edward Hopper, Suzanne Jackson, Joan Jonas, Ellsworth Kelly, Mike Kelley, Willem de Kooning, Barbara Kruger, Pope. L, Jacob Lawrence, Carolyn Lazard, Zoe Leonard, Roy Lichtenstein, Glenn Ligon, Agnes Martin, Daniel Joseph Martinez, Julie Mehretu, Sarah Michelson, Joan Mitchell, Tiona Nekkia McClodden, Georgia O'Keeffe, Claes Oldenburg, Laura Owens, Jackson Pollock, Postcommodity, Yvonne Rainer, Robert Rauschenberg, Cindy Sherman, Lorna Simpson, Rose B. Simpson, Martine Syms, Tourmaline, Wu Tsang, Cy Twombly, Kara Walker, Andy Warhol, Kiyan Williams, and David Wojnarowicz.



Photos by Darian DiCianno/BFA.com

PRESS CONTACT

For press materials and image requests, please visit our press site at whitney.org/press or contact:

Ashley Reese, Director of Communications

(212) 671-1846

Ashley_Reese@whitney.org

Whitney Press Office

whitney.org/press

(212) 570-3633

pressoffice@whitney.org

EXHIBITION SUPPORT

Whitney Biennial 2026 is presented by



The exhibition is also sponsored by



Leadership support for the 2026 Whitney Biennial is provided by David Cancel, and Stephanie March and Dan Benton.

Major support is provided by the Adam D. Weinberg Artists First Fund; Marcia Dunn and Jonathan Sobel; The Holly Peterson Foundation; the Kapadia Equity Fund; The KHR McNeely Family Foundation | Kevin, Rosemary, and Hannah Rose McNeely; and the Whitney's National Committee.

Significant support is provided by Sotheby's.

2026 Biennial Committee Co-Chairs: Sarah Arison, Paul Arnhold and Wes Gordon, Suzanne and Bob Cochran, Salvador Espinoza and Jonathan Rozoff, Amanda and Glenn Fuhrman, Further Forward Foundation, Becky Gochman, Christina Hribar, Stephanie and Tim Ingrassia, Peter H. Kahng, Deepa Kumaraiah and Sean Dempsey, Miyoung Lee and Neil Simpkins, Dawn and David Lenhardt, Sueyun and Gene Locks, George Petrocheilos and Diamantis Xylas, Nancy and Fred Poses, Dr. Jan Siegmund and Dr. Benjamin Maddox, Ron and Ann Pizzuti, Jackson Tang, Teresa Tsai, and Todd White and Cameron Carani.

2026 Biennial Committee: Shelley Fox Aarons and Philip Aarons; Susan and Matthew Blank; Estrellita and Daniel Brodsky; James Keith Brown and Eric Diefenbach; Yolanda Colón-Greenberg and Craig Greenberg; Stephen Dull; Charlotte Feng Ford; Christy and Bill Gautreaux; Elaine Goldman and John Benis; Grace Gould and Jonathan Goldberg; Marielise Hessel; Judelson Family Foundation; Michèle Gerber Klein; Gina Feldman Love and Steven Feldman; Joel Lubin; Bernard I. Lumpkin and Carmine D. Boccuzzi; Marc S. Solomon, Cindy Levine & Interlaken LLC; The Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation; Jamie Watson in memory of Emmett Watson; George Wells and Manfred Rantner; Casey and Lauren Weyand; and an anonymous donor.

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Biennial funding is also provided by endowments created by Emily Fisher Landau, Leonard A. Lauder, and Fern and Lenard Tessler.

Curatorial research and travel for this exhibition were funded by an endowment established by Rosina Lee Yue and Bert A. Lies, Jr., MD.

Support is also provided by the Marshall Weinberg Fund for Performance, endowed in honor of his parents Anna and Harold Weinberg who taught him the meaning of giving.

The Whitney Biennial and Hyundai Terrace Commission are a multiyear partnership with Hyundai Motor. The Hyundai Terrace Commission is an annual site-specific installation on the Whitney Museum's fifth-floor outdoor gallery.

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 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 ninety 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, 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.

Whitney Museum Land Acknowledgment

The Whitney is located in Lenapehoking, the ancestral homeland of the Lenape. The name Manhattan comes from their word Mannahatta, meaning "island of many hills." The Museum's current site is close to land that was a Lenape fishing and planting site called Sapponckanikan ("tobacco field"). The Whitney acknowledges the displacement of this region's original inhabitants and the Lenape diaspora that exists today.

As a museum of American art in a city with vital and diverse communities of Indigenous people, the Whitney recognizes the historical exclusion of Indigenous artists from its collection and program. The Museum is committed to addressing these erasures and honoring the perspectives of Indigenous artists and communities as we work for a more equitable future. To read more about the Museum's Land Acknowledgment, [visit the Museum's website](#).

VISITOR INFORMATION

The Whitney Museum of American Art is located at 99 Gansevoort Street between Washington and West Streets, New York City. Public hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 10:30 am–6 pm; Friday, 10:30 am–10 pm; and Saturday and Sunday, 10:30 am–6 pm. Closed Tuesday. Visitors twenty-five years and under and Whitney members: FREE. The Museum offers FREE admission and special programming for visitors of all ages every Friday evening from 5–10 pm and on the second Sunday of every month.