

WHITNEY

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PRESS RELEASE



Zoe Leonard, *945 Madison Avenue*, 2014 (installation view, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York). Collection of the artist; courtesy Galerie Gisela Capitain, Cologne; Murray Guy, New York; and Galleria Raffaella Cortese, Milan. Photograph by Bill Jacobson Studio, New York.

Zoe Leonard Receives 2014 Bucksbaum Award

NEW YORK, May 15, 2014— Adam D. Weinberg, Alice Pratt Brown Director of the Whitney Museum of American Art, has announced that artist Zoe Leonard is the recipient of the eighth Bucksbaum Award. The award, established by Melva Bucksbaum and her family, is given every two years to one of the artists in the Biennial whose work demonstrates a singular combination of talent and imagination. Leonard, who was selected from among 103 participants in the 2014 Biennial, will receive a \$100,000 grant and an invitation to present a solo exhibition at the Whitney prior to the next Biennial. She will be honored during the Bucksbaum Award ceremony at the Whitney on Wednesday evening, May 21.

Zoe Leonard (b. 1961) is a New York-based artist. For the 2014 Biennial, she created *945 Madison Avenue*, transforming a section of the Museum's fourth floor into an enormous camera obscura, a naturally occurring phenomenon in which a small hole in one side of a dark chamber projects an inverted image of the outside view onto the surfaces of the room. With a lens placed in the Museum's signature Marcel Breuer-designed window, Leonard's work projects an image of the Madison Avenue streetscape that unfolds in real time on the gallery's gridded cement ceiling, walls, and stone floor. As the light shifts, windows open and close, cars drive up Madison Avenue, and pedestrians cross the street. Leonard takes up this principle of the camera obscura in order to investigate vision as not only an optical process but also a temporal and social experience; she places the viewer inside the camera, as much a part of the installation as the view outside.

Overseen by Biennial curator Anthony Elms, associate curator at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadelphia, *945 Madison Avenue* is one of a series of site-specific camera obscura installations that Leonard has created since 2011. This particular work poignantly references architect Marcel Breuer, who wrote that a museum building "should have a visual connection to the street." This is the final Whitney

Biennial that will be held in the Museum's uptown location before it moves to its new downtown Renzo Piano-designed building in spring 2015.

One of the most distinguished artists of her generation, Leonard is known for her work in photography, film, and sculpture. She participated in both the 1993 and 1997 Whitney Biennials. Her work was featured in the exhibition *Blues for Smoke*, which was organized by the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, and traveled to the Whitney in 2013. Her critically-acclaimed *Analogue* (1998–2009), a collection of more than 400 photographs documenting the rapid gentrification in New York's Lower East Side alongside the globalization of American culture, was a highlight of Documenta XII (2007). She has received major solo exhibitions at Philadelphia Museum of Art (1998); Centre National de la Photographie, Paris (1998); The Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, Ohio (2007); Dia: Beacon (2008); Fotomuseum Wintherthur (2007); Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid (2008); MuMOK — Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, Vienna (2009); and Camden Arts Centre, London (2012); as well as presented at both Documenta IX (1992) and Documenta XII (2007). Her work can be found in the permanent collections of many prestigious institutions, including the Art Institute of Chicago; Centre Pompidou (Paris); Ludwig Museum (Cologne, Germany); Tate Modern (London); Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Museum of Modern Art (New York); National Gallery of Art (Washington, D.C.); Philadelphia Museum of Art; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Secession (Vienna); Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (New York); and the Whitney Museum of American Art (New York).

The jury for the 2014 Bucksbaum Award was comprised of **Adam D. Weinberg**; **Donna De Salvo**, Chief Curator and Deputy Director for Programs at the Whitney; Biennial curators **Anthony Elms**, **Michelle Grabner**, professor at the School of the Art Institute, Chicago, and **Stuart Comer**, Chief Curator of the Department of Media and Performance Art at the Museum of Modern Art; and guest panelists **Michelle Kuo**, Editor in Chief of *Artforum*, and **Nancy Spector**, Deputy Director and Jennifer and David Stockman Chief Curator of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. Biennial advisors **Elisabeth Sussman**, Curator and Sondra Gilman Curator of Photography, and **Jay Sanders**, Curator and Curator of Performance, both at the Whitney, were non-voting jury participants.

The 2014 Whitney Biennial remains on view through May 25, 2014.

About the Bucksbaum Award

Melva Bucksbaum, a Whitney trustee since 1996, and her family launched the Bucksbaum Award in 2000. The most recent recipient is choreographer Sarah Michelson, who presented *Devotion Study #1—The American Dancer* on the Museum's fourth floor for the 2012 Whitney Biennial. Previous recipients are Paul Pfeiffer (2000), Irit Batsry (2002), Raymond Pettibon (2004), Mark Bradford (2006), Omer Fast (2008), and Michael Asher (2010).

The Bucksbaum Award is given every two years in recognition of an artist, chosen from those included in the Biennial. The selected artist is considered by the jurors to have the potential to make a lasting impact on the history of American art, based on the excellence of past work as well as present work in the Biennial. In addition to receiving a \$100,000 grant, each Bucksbaum laureate is invited to present an exhibition at the Whitney, prior to the next Biennial. The physical award has been designed and produced by Tiffany & Co.

Funding for the Bucksbaum Award is provided by an endowment from the Martin Bucksbaum Family Foundation.

About the Whitney

The Whitney Museum of American Art is the world's leading museum of twentieth-century and contemporary art of the United States. Focusing particularly on works by living artists, the Whitney is celebrated for presenting important exhibitions and for its renowned collection, which comprises over

20,000 works by more than 3,000 artists. With a history of exhibiting the most promising and influential artists and provoking intense debate, the Whitney Biennial, the Museum's signature exhibition, has become the most important survey of the state of contemporary art in the United States. In addition to its landmark exhibitions, the Museum is known internationally for events and educational programs of exceptional significance and as a center for research, scholarship, and conservation.

Founded by sculptor and arts patron Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney in 1930, the Whitney was first housed on West 8th Street in Greenwich Village. The Museum relocated in 1954 to West 54th Street and, in 1966, inaugurated its present home, designed by Marcel Breuer, at 945 Madison Avenue on the Upper East Side. While its vibrant program of exhibitions and events continues uptown, the Whitney is constructing a new building, designed by Renzo Piano, in downtown Manhattan. Located at the corner of Gansevoort and Washington Streets in the Meatpacking District, at the southern entrance to the High Line, the new building, which has generated immense momentum and support, will enable the Whitney to vastly increase the size and scope of its exhibition and programming space. Ground was broken on the new building in May 2011, and it is projected to open to the public in spring 2015.

Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art

2014 Whitney Biennial	Through May 25, 2014
American Legends: From Calder to O'Keeffe	Through June 29, 2014
Jeff Koons: A Retrospective	June 27–October 19, 2014

The Whitney Museum is located at 945 Madison Avenue at 75th Street, 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. General admission: \$20. Full-time students and visitors ages 19–25 and 62 & over: \$16. Visitors 18 & under and Whitney members: FREE. Admission is pay-what-you-wish on Fridays, 6–9 p.m. For general information, please call (212) 570-3600 or visit whitney.org.

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