

WHITNEY

Press Release

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THE WHITNEY ANNOUNCES CURATORS FOR 2014 BIENNIAL



Stuart Comer



Michelle Grabner



Anthony Elms

New York, November 29, 2012 -- The Whitney Museum of American Art announced today that the 2014 Whitney Biennial will take a bold new form with three curators from outside the Museum offering their unique perspectives on the state of contemporary art in the United States. While past Biennials have been organized collectively by multiple curators, for this edition each curator will oversee one floor of the exhibition. The Museum has selected Stuart Comer, Anthony Elms, and Michelle Grabner to represent a range of geographic vantages and curatorial methodologies. Whitney curators Elisabeth Sussman and Jay Sanders, who were responsible for the widely praised 2012 Biennial, will act as advisors on the project.

The exhibition has come to be regarded as the Museum's signature survey of contemporary American art; the next Biennial goes on view at the beginning of March 2014. It will be the 77th in the Museum's ongoing series of Annual and Biennial exhibitions, inaugurated in 1932 by Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney.

Donna De Salvo, Chief Curator and Deputy Director for Programs at the Whitney, noted: "We chose to make the last Biennial in the Breuer building before our move downtown an experiment with a new curatorial structure. By flinging open the Museum's doors metaphorically, we hope to create a platform in which voices from outside the Whitney can enliven the conversation around contemporary art in the United States. Hailing from Chicago, Philadelphia, and London, each curator will bring a personal approach to the process, creating an exciting mix of emerging and established artists that is the Biennial's hallmark."

The list of artists in the exhibition will be released at the end of 2013.

About the Curators

Stuart Comer is Curator: Film at Tate Modern, London. He oversees film and video work for the Tate Collection and Displays, was co-curator for the opening season of The Tanks at Tate Modern, and organizes an extensive program of screenings, performances and events. He has contributed to numerous periodicals, including *Artforum*, *Frieze*, *Afterall*, *Mousse*, *Parkett* and *Art Review*. He is editor of *Film and Video Art* (Tate Publishing, 2009) and has contributed essays to several publications on artists including Tom Burr, Andrea Fraser, David Lamelas, Sharon Lockhart, Mark Morrisroe, Bik Van Der Pol and Gillian Wearing, among others. Comer was a co-curator of the 2007 Lyon Biennial. Other recent freelance curatorial projects include *Andy, as you know I am writing a movie...* at Beirut Art Center, *The Young and Evil* for tank.tv, *An American Family* at Kunstverein Munich and CASCO, Utrecht; *America's Most Wanted* for The Artists' Cinema at Frieze Art Fair, London; and *Double Lunar Trouble* at Whitechapel Art Gallery, London. Comer has participated in symposia, talks and events at numerous international venues. He sits on the board of Film London and has been a member of juries for CPH:DOX 2012, the 2011 Venice Film Festival, the 2006 BFI Sutherland Trophy at The Times BFI 50th London Film Festival, the International Jury for the Oberhausen 52nd International Short Film

Festival in 2006, and the inaugural Magic of Persia Contemporary Art Prize in 2009. He has chaired the Derek Jarman Award for artists' film and video since its inaugural year in 2008.

Anthony Elms is Associate Curator at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, and is also the editor of WhiteWalls, an independent publisher distributed through the University of Chicago Press. Previously he worked for Performa 11 and was Assistant Director at Gallery 400 at the University of Illinois at Chicago for five years. His writings have appeared in *Afterall*, *Art Asia Pacific*, *Art Papers*, *Artforum*, *Cakewalk*, *May Revue*, *Modern Painters*, *New Art Examiner*, and *Time Out Chicago*, and he has also written essays for numerous catalogs and collections. He has independently curated exhibitions as well, including: *Pathways to Unknown Worlds: Sun Ra, El Saturn & Chicago's Afro-Futurist Underground, 1954-68* (with John Corbett and Terri Kapsalis); *Interstellar Low Ways* (with Huey Copeland); *Can Bigfoot Get You a Beer?*, and *A Unicorn Basking in the Light of Three Glowing Suns* (both with Philip von Zweck). Elms has also taught visual arts seminars at the University of Chicago and the University of Illinois at Chicago. He received a BFA in painting from Michigan State University and an MFA from the University of Chicago, and he continues to exhibit as an artist. His group exhibition *White Petals Surround Your Yellow Heart* opens on February 6, 2013, at the ICA Philadelphia.

Michelle Grabner is Professor and Chair of the Painting and Drawing Department at the School of the Art Institute, Chicago, as well as a senior critic at Yale University in the Department of Painting and Printmaking. Together with her husband Brad Killam, Grabner founded The Suburban in 1999 and the Poor Farm in 2009. The Suburban is an artist-run project space in Oak Park, Illinois; over the past thirteen years, it has hosted projects by numerous major and emerging artists including Ceal Floyer, Nicholas Gambaroff, Lucie Fontaine, Luc Tuymans, Katharina Gross, Ann Pibal, and Katrin Sigurdardottir. The Poor Farm is a not-for-profit exhibition space in rural Waupaca County, Wisconsin; in 2012-2013, it is exhibiting *Tracking the Thrill*, a focused selection of Gretchen Bender's (1951-2004) video works, including the re-staging of the video performance *Total Recall*. Grabner is also a corresponding editor for *X-TRA*, a quarterly art journal published in Los Angeles since 1997. Her writing has been published

in *Artforum*, *Modern Painters*, *Frieze*, *X-tra*, *Art Press*, and *Art-Agenda* among others. The Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland is organizing and hosting a traveling survey exhibition of Grabner's work that will open in the fall of 2013. In January 2013 she opens exhibitions at Shane Campbell Gallery's three Chicago locations. Her work is included in such public collections as the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; MUDAM - Musée d'Art Moderne Luxembourg; Milwaukee Art Museum, Wisconsin; Daimler Contemporary, Berlin; and the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington DC.

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 19,000 works by more than 2,900 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 moving forward with a new building project, 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 2015.

Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art

...as apple pie	Through early 2013
Wade Guyton OS	Through January 13, 2013
Richard Artschwager!	Through February 3, 2013
Trisha Baga: Plymouth Rock 2	Through January 13, 2013
Sinister Pop	Through March 31, 2013
Dark and Deadpan: Pop in TV and the Movies	Through March 31, 2013
Blues for Smoke	February 7-April 28, 2013

Jay DeFeo: A Retrospective

February 28-June 2, 2013

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: \$18. Full-time students and visitors ages 19–25 and 62 & over: \$14. 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.