

WHITNEY

Press Release

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THE WHITNEY ANNOUNCES CURATORS FOR 2012 BIENNIAL



Elisabeth Sussman and Jay Sanders

New York, November 19, 2010 -- The Whitney Museum of American Art announced today that the 2012 Whitney Biennial will be co-curated by the Whitney's Elisabeth Sussman and independent curator Jay Sanders. This will be the 76th in the Museum's series of Annual and Biennial exhibitions inaugurated in 1932 by Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney.

The next Whitney Biennial, the Museum's signature survey of contemporary American art, goes on view in March 2012. The list of the selected artists will be announced at the end of 2011 or early 2012.

Donna De Salvo, the Whitney's Chief Curator and Deputy Director for Programs, said, "Over the past three decades, Elisabeth has distinguished herself as one of the premier curators in the field. Her recent historical exhibitions have had tremendous impact on a younger generation of artists whom she has also been actively acquiring for our collection. Through his writings and exhibitions, Jay has demonstrated a highly innovative sensibility, championing the work of emerging artists and older figures who feel newly relevant in our time. Together, their unique points of view will combine to create what I'm sure will be significant statement about art today."

About the Curators

Elisabeth Sussman is Curator and Sondra Gilman Curator of Photography at the Whitney Museum of American Art where her exhibition *Paul Thek: Diver, A Retrospective*, co-curated with Lynn Zelevansky, is currently on view through January 9, 2011. Most recently, she co-curated (with Thomas Weski) *William Eggleston: Democratic Camera, Photographs and Video, 1961-2008*, which was on a four-venue international tour beginning at the Whitney, and is now on view at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Sussman's *Gordon Matta-Clark: "You Are the Measure"* was awarded the AICA award for best monographic show in New York (2007-08). She has organized many other Whitney exhibitions including *Remote Viewing: Invented Worlds in Recent Painting and Drawing* (2005); *Mike Kelley: Catholic Tastes* (1991); *Nan Goldin: I'll Be Your Mirror* (1996), with David Armstrong; *Keith Haring* (1997); and the Museum's *1993 Biennial Exhibition*.

Sussman co-curated two exhibitions on the work of Eva Hesse, one of Hesse's drawings with The Drawing Center, and another of her sculpture with The Jewish Museum, both in New York. For the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Sussman co-organized, with Renate Petzinger of the Museum Wiesbaden, a full retrospective on the work of Eva Hesse; the exhibition received AICA's First Prize for the best monographic exhibition outside of New York in 2001 and 2002. For SFMOMA, Sussman also organized, with Sandra Phillips, a retrospective of the work of Diane Arbus, *Diane Arbus: Revelation*. The catalogue for the Arbus exhibition received the 2004 Infinity Award for Publication

of the International Center of Photography. Sussman was a Fellow of the Rockefeller Foundation at the Rockefeller Study and Conference Center in Bellagio, Italy, in 1999, and a fellow at the Getty Research Institute in 2003. She is the author of many publications, including *Lisette Model* (Phaidon, 2001) and has contributed essays on Robert Gober for the Schaulager and on Lee Bontecou.

From 2005 until recently, **Jay Sanders** was a Gallery Director at Greene Naftali in New York, where he organized major monographic exhibitions of the artist/filmmakers Tony Conrad and Paul Sharits, along with shows by Allen Ruppersberg, Guy de Cointet, and others. Curated group exhibitions at the gallery include *Payday*, *Epileptic Seizure Comparison*, and *Motore Immobile*. In addition to organizing innumerable exhibitions, concerts, and readings over the past decade, Sanders's recent projects as a curator include organizing a ten-day continuous screening installation, *ITWAN*, as part of the exhibition *Film Programme* at IPS International Project Space, Birmingham (UK), presented in November 2010. In 2008 he curated *Looking Back: The Third White Columns Annual* at White Columns, New York. In 2007 he organized an artist film and video program/installation, conceived and co-curated with Paul Chan, entitled *Change our fates, hobble the plague, start with time*, at the Lyon Biennale. Sanders has programmed performance, music, and film exhibitions at such venues as the former Whitney branch at Altria, Issue Project Room, Anthology Film Archives, Sculpture Center, EAI, The Stone, Tonic, and for Performa. He is a member of the collaborative performance group Grand Openings, and has staged large-scale events at Anthology Film Archives for Performa 05 (New York), the Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennial (Japan), MUMOK (Vienna), and the Bumbershoot Festival (Seattle). He has produced and edited a DVD on the work of theater artist Richard Foreman, published a book of Jack Smith's drawings, and co-edited, with poet Charles Bernstein, the seminal catalogue *Poetry Plastique* to accompany their 2001 exhibition by the same name at Marianne Boesky Gallery, where Sanders was a Gallery Director from 2000 to 2005. Sanders has written extensively for *Artforum*, *Parkett*, *Texte zur Kunst*, *BOMB*, and other publications.

About the Whitney

The Whitney Museum of American Art is the preeminent institution devoted to twentieth-century and contemporary art of the United States, with a special focus on works by living artists. The Whitney's collection, which comprises over 18,000 works by more than 2800 artists, includes major works and

materials from the estate of Edward Hopper, the largest public collection of works by Alexander Calder, as well as significant works by Jasper Johns, Donald Judd, Agnes Martin, Bruce Nauman, Georgia O'Keeffe,

Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen, Kiki Smith, and Andy Warhol, among other artists. With its history of exhibiting the most promising and influential American artists and provoking intense critical and public debate, the Whitney's signature show, the Biennial, has become the most important survey of the state of contemporary art in America today. Founded in 1930, the Whitney was first housed on West 8th Street. The Museum relocated in 1954 to West 54th Street and in 1966 inaugurated its present home at 945 Madison Avenue, designed by Marcel Breuer. The Whitney is currently moving ahead with plans to build a second facility, designed by Renzo Piano, located in downtown Manhattan at the entrance to the High Line in the Meatpacking District.

Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art

Collecting Biennials	Through November 28, 2010
Lee Friedlander: America by Car	Through November 28, 2010
Sara VanDerBeek: To Think of Time	Through December 5, 2010
Paul Thek: Diver, A Retrospective	Through January 9, 2011
Slater Bradley and Ed Lachman: Shadow	Through January 23, 2010
Charles LeDray: workworkworkworkwork	Through February 13, 2011
Modern Life: Edward Hopper and His Time	Through April 10, 2011
Karthik Pandian: Unearth	Opens December 15, 2010
Singular Visions	Opens December 16, 2010
Legacy: The Emily Fisher Landau Collection	February 10-May 1, 2011
Glenn Ligon: America	March 10-June 5, 2011

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: \$12. Visitors 18 & under and Whitney members: FREE. Admission to the Kaufman Astoria Studios Film & Video Gallery only: \$6. 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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