

2010

WHITNEY
BIENNIAL

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PRESS RELEASE

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ARTISTS ANNOUNCED FOR WHITNEY BIENNIAL, 2010

NEW YORK, December 11, 2009 – The Whitney Museum of American Art today announced the list of artists participating in the upcoming Whitney Biennial, 2010, which takes over the Museum from February 25 through May 30, 2010. This is the 75th in the ongoing series of Biennials and Annuals presented by the Whitney since 1932, two years after the Museum was founded.

The fifty-five artists were selected by curator Francesco Bonami and associate curator Gary Carrion-Murayari. (A video by Pierce Jackson features the curators, seen in various locations throughout the Museum, reading out the names of the artists. Please visit whitney.org to view the video.)

Curators Bonami and Carrion-Murayari noted, “The Whitney Biennial continues to reflect the way in which art is shaped by the particular historical moment in which it was created. The artists selected for this year’s exhibition reflect diverse responses to the anxiety and optimism of the past two years. 2010 does not privilege any one medium or aesthetic style, but rather assembles a wide range of individual gestures, personal histories, and improvised encounters that speak to a sense of openness and community.”

The Biennial is the Whitney’s panoramic signature survey of the latest in American art. It includes a blend of well established artists together with a predominance of emerging artists from all over the country. Their works range from film and video to photography, painting, sculpture, drawing, installation, performance, and architecture. Performances and events will take place at the Museum throughout the course of the show. This year the events and performances are concentrated on Friday evenings in both the Lobby Gallery and Lower Gallery. A 2010 Biennial artist, Martin Kersels, is creating a sculptural installation in the Lobby Gallery that also functions as a stage for curatorial programs involving artists, writers, musicians, choreographers, and DJs.

THE ARTISTS OF THE WHITNEY BIENNIAL, 2010

David Adamo

Born 1979 in Rochester, New York;
lives in Berlin, Germany

Richard Aldrich

Born 1975 in Hampton, Virginia;
lives in Brooklyn, New York

Michael Asher

Born 1943 in Los Angeles, California;
lives in Los Angeles, California

Tauba Auerbach

Born 1981 in San Francisco, California;
lives in New York, New York
www.taubaauerbach.com

Nina Berman

Born 1960 in New York, New York;
lives in New York, New York
www.ninaberman.com

Huma Bhabha

Born 1962 in Karachi, Pakistan;
lives in Poughkeepsie, New York

Josh Brand

Born 1980 in Elkhorn, Wisconsin;
lives in Brooklyn, New York

The Bruce High Quality Foundation

Founded 2001 in Brooklyn, New York
www.thebrucehighqualityfoundation.com and
<http://bhqfu.org>

James Casebere

Born 1953 in East Lansing, Michigan;
lives in Brooklyn, New York
www.jamescasebere.net

Edgar Cleijne and Ellen Gallagher

Born 1963 in Eindhoven, The Netherlands/
Born 1965 in Providence, Rhode Island

Dawn Clements

Born 1958 in Woburn, Massachusetts;
lives in Brooklyn, New York

George Condo

Born 1957 in Concord, New Hampshire;
lives in New York, New York

Sarah Crowner

Born 1974 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania;
lives in Brooklyn, New York

Verne Dawson

Born 1961 in Meridianville, Alabama;
lives in Saluda, North Carolina, and New York,
New York

Julia Fish

Born 1950 in Toledo, Oregon;
lives in Chicago, Illinois
www.juliafish.com

Roland Flexner

Born 1944 in Nice, France;
lives in New York, New York
www.rolandflexner.com

Suzan Frecon

Born 1941 in Mexico, Pennsylvania;
lives in New York, New York

Maureen Gallace

Born 1960 in Stamford, Connecticut;
lives in New York, New York

Theaster Gates

Born 1973 in Chicago, Illinois; lives in Chicago,
Illinois
www.theastergates.com/home.html

Kate Gilmore

Born 1975 in Washington, DC;
lives in New York, New York
www.kategilmore.com

Hannah Greely

Born 1979 in Dickson, Tennessee;
lives in Los Angeles, California

Jesse Aron Green
Born 1979 in Boston, Massachusetts;
lives in Boston, Massachusetts, and Los
Angeles, California
www.jessearongreen.com

Robert Grosvenor
Born 1937 in New York, New York;
lives in Long Island, New York

Sharon Hayes
Born 1970 in Baltimore, Maryland;
lives in New York, New York
www.shaze.info

Thomas Houseago
Born 1972, Leeds, England;
lives in Los Angeles, California

Alex Hubbard
Born 1975 in Toledo, Oregon;
lives in Brooklyn, New York

Jessica Jackson Hutchins
Born 1971 in Chicago, Illinois;
lives in Portland, Oregon

Jeffrey Inaba
Born 1962 in Los Angeles, California;
lives in New York, New York
www.inabaprojects.com

Martin Kersels
Born 1960 in Sierra Madre, California;
lives in Los Angeles, California

Jim Lutes
Born 1955 in Fort Lewis, Washington;
lives in Chicago, Illinois

Babette Mangolte
Born 1941 in Montmorot (Jura), France;
lives in New York, New York
www.babettemangolte.com

Curtis Mann
Born 1979 in Dayton, Ohio;
lives in Chicago, Illinois
www.curtismann.com

Ari Marcopoulos
Born 1957 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands;
lives in Sonoma, California
www.exfed.blogspot.com

Daniel McDonald
Born 1971 in Los Angeles, California;
lives in New York, New York

Josephine Meckseper
Born 1964 in Lilienthal, Germany;
lives in New York, New York

Rashaad Newsome
Born 1979 in New Orleans, Louisiana;
lives in New York, New York
www.rashaadnewsome.com

Kelly Nipper
Born 1971 in Edina, Minnesota;
lives in Los Angeles, California
www.kellynipper.net

Lorraine O'Grady
Born 1934 in Boston, Massachusetts;
lives in New York, New York
www.lorraineogrady.com

R.H. Quaytman
Born 1961 in Boston, Massachusetts;
lives in New York, New York

Charles Ray
Born 1953 in Chicago, Illinois;
lives in Los Angeles, California

Emily Roysdon
Born 1977 in Easton, Maryland;
lives in New York, New York, and
Stockholm, Sweden
www.emilyroysdon.com

Aki Sasamoto
Born 1980 in Yokohama, Japan;
lives in Brooklyn, New York
www.culturepush.org

Aurel Schmidt
Born 1982 in Kamloops, British Columbia;
lives in New York, New York

Scott Short
Born 1964 in Marion, Ohio;
lives in Vallauris, France

Stephanie Sinclair
Born 1973 in Miami, Florida;
lives in Brooklyn, New York
www.stephaniesinclair.com

Ania Soliman
Born 1970 in Warsaw, Poland;
lives in Basel, Switzerland, and
New York, New York

Storm Tharp
Born 1970 in Ontario, Oregon;
lives in Portland, Oregon

Tam Tran
Born 1986 in Hue, Vietnam;
lives in Memphis, Tennessee

Kerry Tribe
Born 1973 in Boston, Massachusetts;
lives in Los Angeles, California, and Berlin,
Germany
www.kerrytribe.com

Piotr Uklański
Born 1968 in Warsaw, Poland;
lives in New York, New York,
and Warsaw, Poland

Lesley Vance
Born 1977 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin;
lives in Los Angeles, California

Marianne Vitale
Born 1973 in New York, New York;
lives in New York, New York
www.mariannevitale.com

Erika Vogt
Born 1973 in East Newark, New Jersey;
lives in Los Angeles, California

Pae White
Born 1963 in Pasadena, California;
lives in Los Angeles, California

Robert Williams
Born 1943 in Albuquerque, New Mexico,
lives in Chatsworth, California
www.robtwilliamsstudio.com

Eleven of the artists have shown in past Whitney Biennials: James Casebere and George Condo in the 1980s, Suzan Frecon in 2000, Hannah Greely in 2006, Robert Grosvenor in the 1960s and 70s, Martin Kersels in 1997, Jim Lutes in 1987, Ari Marcopoulos in 2002, Josephine Meckseper in 2006, Charles Ray several times in the 1980s and 90s; Ray, who also had a solo retrospective at the Whitney in 1998, makes a departure from his previous work with his installation in *2010*. Ellen Gallagher had a Whitney solo show, *DeLuxe*, a series of works on paper, in 2005, and was in the 1995 Biennial; this time she is partnering with the Dutch artist Edgar Cleijne on a film installation that includes sculptural construction and silk-screened panels. Michael Asher, well known as a West Coast pioneer of conceptual art, was in the Whitney's seminal *Anti-Illusion* show in 1969.

Piotr Uklański had a solo show at the Whitney, in 2007, presenting his first film, *Summer Love* (a booze and blood-soaked revisionist Western); Uklański's work in *2010* is a theatrical installation involving textiles. Kerry Tribe, a graduate of the Whitney's Independent Study Program in 1998, was featured in the Whitney's group exhibition *Down by Law* (2006); her Biennial work is a film installation using historic and invented storylines dealing with memory and brain function. Verne Dawson, represented in the Biennial with a large-scale figurative painting, was also shown at the Whitney in *Down by Law*. Babette Mangolte, well known as a filmmaker and as the cinematographer on a number of key films by Yvonne Rainer and Chantal Akerman (including Akerman's *Jeanne Dielman, 23 quai du Commerce, 1080 Bruxelles*), was included in the Whitney exhibition *The American Century*; her Biennial contribution is a mixed media installation involving photography and a video that recreates an earlier installation from 1978.

Nina Berman is a photojournalist and author of the book *Purple Hearts: Back from Iraq* (Trolley, 2004), a collection of portraits and interviews with twenty veterans of the Iraq War; a member of the photo collective NOOR, based in Amsterdam, Berman's works in the Biennial are photographs depicting the life of a returning veteran. Sarah Crouner, a painter who works with the legacy of hard-edged geometric abstraction from the 1950s and 60s, employs both original and appropriated compositions as patterns and templates to construct her paintings. Roland Flexner's contribution to 2010 is thirty small-scale Sumi ink drawings.

Maureen Gallace creates compositions depicting the vernacular architecture and landscape of rural New England, reminiscent of images of small-town America by Edward Hopper and Fairfield Porter; her work was the subject of *Focus: Maureen Gallace* at The Art Institute of Chicago in 2006. Jessica Jackson Hutchins's work in the Biennial is in the form of sculpture, including ceramics, found furniture, collage, and newspaper. Jeffery Inaba, director of C-Lab, an architecture, policy, and communications think tank at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, is creating an architectural intervention for the Biennial.

Rashaad Newsome, an artist from New Orleans, makes videos involving dancers and dealing with African-American cultural markers. Lorraine O'Grady is an artist and critic whose installations, performances, and texts address issues of diaspora, hybridity, and female subjectivity; her Biennial work is an installation of photographs and photo-collage that deals with issues of appropriation and cultural identity. R.H. Quayman's contribution to the Biennial is a multiple-painting installation dealing with architecture and the history of the Whitney itself.

Aki Sasamoto, a young Japanese-born artist who lives in Brooklyn, is creating an installation that will include large and small sculptures, sound, and a series of performances that will take place throughout the run of the Biennial. Tam Tran, a Vietnam-born artist who lives and works in Memphis, is showing photographs dealing with ideas of childhood and self-discovery. Pae White, who works in sculpture and installation, often using cardboard cut-outs, delicate wire constructions, suspended mobiles, or evocative wall paintings, had a solo exhibition at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, in 2004; her work in the Biennial is a large "smoke" tapestry.

PERMANENT COLLECTION EXHIBITION: *COLLECTING BIENNIALS*

As a prelude, counterpoint, and coda to the Biennial, the Museum's fifth floor is devoted to artists in the Whitney's collection whose works were shown in Biennials over the past eight decades. *Collecting Biennials*, opening on January 16, is installed as a kind of historical survey within the Biennial, underscoring the importance of previous Biennial exhibitions in the Museum's history and the formation of its collection. A new work by one of the artists in 2010, George Condo, is also included in the mix. *Collecting Biennials* begins nearly six weeks before the rest of the Biennial and remains on view until July 2010.

Included in *Collecting Biennials* are such well known artists as Richard Artschwager, Milton Avery, Matthew Barney, Ashley Bickerton, Peter Blume, Lee Bontecou, Vija Celmins, Bruce Connor, Willem de Kooning, Richard Diebenkorn, Robert Gober, Philip Guston, David Hammons, Duane Hanson, Eva Hesse, Edward Hopper, Jasper Johns, Mike Kelley, Liz Larner, Sherrie Levine, Glenn Ligon, Sylvia Plimack Mangold, Robert Morris, Cady Noland, Claes Oldenburg, Paul Pfeiffer, Jackson Pollock, Richard Prince, Robert Rauschenberg, Charles Ray, Ad Reinhardt, Mark Rothko, Ed Ruscha, Julian Schnabel, Cindy Sherman, George Tooker, Cy Twombly, Andy Warhol, and Sue Williams.

THE BUCKSBAUM AWARD: TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Melva Bucksbaum, a Whitney trustee since 1996, launched The Bucksbaum Award in 2000. In addition to Omer Fast, who received the award in 2008 and has an exhibition titled *Nostalgia* on view at the Whitney now through February 14, 2010, the previous recipients are Paul Pfeiffer (2000), Irit Batsry (2002), Raymond Pettibon (2004), and Mark Bradford (2006). The Bucksbaum Award, created and produced by Tiffany & Co., is given every two years in recognition of an artist, chosen from those included in the Biennial, whose work demonstrates a singular combination of talent and imagination. 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, sometime within the succeeding two years. The recipient of the 2010 Bucksbaum Award will be announced during the course of the Biennial; a publication marking the tenth anniversary of the award will be issued in April.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS: MY TURN

A series of *My Turn* programs will take place on six Friday evenings during the Biennial. *My Turn*, a Whitney program which began in summer 2009, invites artists to create events that are an extension of their process and method. Taking their work on view as a point of departure, six Biennial artists, including Martin Kersels, Ari Marcopoulos, and Aki Sasamoto, among others, will explore a key aspect of their practice to create distinctive evenings of performance, discussion, demonstration, and engagement.

BIENNIAL VIDEO SERIES

For 2010, the Whitney will produce thirty-five short videos, directed by Pierce Jackson, exploring five main areas of the exhibition: the curators, the artists, parties and performances, the production of the show, and visitor reactions. This content will be available on whitney.org, YouTube, Blip.tv, iTunes, and other outlets. The first videos in the series will introduce the Biennial curators and the practices and personalities of various Biennial artists.

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Biennial programs for families include interactive tours, art workshops, studio courses, a gallery guide for kids, and more. Many programs involve Biennial artists, who share information about their work and artistic process, and inspire young children and their parents to experiment and create together.

CATALOGUE

A catalogue, edited by curators Francesco Bonami and Gary Carrion-Murayari, accompanies the exhibition. In addition to full-color reproductions of the selected artists' work and an essay by the curators, the book includes brief entries by a number of writers on the represented artists' techniques, influences, and recent work. A detailed appendix features photographs of previous installations and a chronological list of artists included in past Whitney Biennials. Thumbnails of previous catalogue covers are also included, positioning each exhibition as a snapshot of artistic practice at a particular moment. The book, designed by the award-winning design firm Project Projects, is published by the Whitney and distributed by Yale University Press.

ACCESSIBILITY

Whitney Signs, a free gallery tour led by expert Museum educators who are deaf, takes place the first Saturday of each month at 4 pm, with a pre-tour reception at 3 pm. The tour is voice-interpreted. During the Biennial, monthly tours will also be made available for visitors who are blind or partially sighted. The program allows visitors to explore the Biennial with a specially trained Museum educator who provides vivid, detailed verbal descriptions of the works on display.

FUNDING CREDITS/SPONSORSHIP

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Significant funding for 2010 is provided by an endowment created by Melva Bucksbaum, Emily Fisher Landau, and Leonard A. Lauder.

ABOUT THE WHITNEY

The Whitney Museum of American Art is the leading advocate of 20th- and 21st-century American art. Founded in 1930, the Museum is regarded as the preeminent collection of American art and 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. First housed on West 8th Street, the Whitney 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 New York at the entrance to the High Line in the Meatpacking District.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS AT THE WHITNEY MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART:

A Few Frames: Photography and the Contact Sheet	Through January 3, 2010
Georgia O'Keeffe: Abstraction	Through January 17, 2010
Roni Horn aka Roni Horn	Through January 24, 2010
Alice Guy Blaché: Cinema Pioneer	Through January 24, 2010
Omer Fast: Nostalgia	Through February 14, 2010
Collecting Biennials	January 16-July 2010
2010 Biennial	February 25-May 30, 2010
Heat Waves in a Swamp: The Paintings of Charles Burchfield	Opens June 24, 2010

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 pm. For general information, please call (212) 570-3600 or visit whitney.org.

WHITNEY