



## **Governors Island Art Fair To Feature Artist Installations in Underground Ammunition Chambers at Fort Jay for First Time As Part of New Partnership with National Park Service**

### **Fair Leadership also Announces Full Slate of 100 Participating Artists in 2015 Edition, Opening on September 5**

**August 17, 2015 (New York)** – The eighth annual Governors Island Art Fair (GIAF), which features the work of emerging artists from around the region and across the globe, will for the first time present artist installations in the Fort Jay magazine, a series of six cavernous brick chambers underneath Fort Jay that housed ammunition and explosives during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Varying in size, the magazine spaces will feature video and sound installations that take advantage of the raw environment and underground acoustics. The expansion of GIAF to the Fort Jay magazine is part of an effort with the Governors Island National Monument and the Trust for Governors Island, both of who have long played a role in enhancing the range of performance and visual art experiences on Governors Island.

Artists exhibiting in the Fort Jay magazine include **Rachel Rampleman**, whose work straddles the realms of time-based installation, documentary-style film, and experimental video; **Megan Suttles**, who creates mixed-media installations that examine anxiety and control through the transformation of everyday materials; and **Chin-Lung Chung**, whose interactive installations bring audiences into otherworldly environments through color and movement, among several other artists.

Additionally, the 2015 edition of GIAF will feature more outdoor installations than previous years, creating a pathway of art between Fort Jay and the historic homes of military officers at Colonels' Row—the fair's primary location on the Island. Highlights of outdoor works include **Peter Goldwater's** twisted and abstract sculptures made from metal and ceramics; **Aleksandr Razin's** multi-media installations that incorporate found objects to create new, participatory experiences; and **Rodrigo Nava's** steel forms, which are created by placing the material under intense pressure.

The fair, which includes 100 artists and several independent galleries, will open to the public on September 5 and remain open every weekend throughout the month. The majority of works on view are available for purchase, and admission to the fair is free of charge. The fair is organized by the nonprofit organization 4heads, which gives each exhibiting artist a full room or outdoor space in which to install their work as part of its commitment to providing artists with opportunities to fully examine and express their creative visions. For the last eight years, 4heads has presented the fair across various areas of the Island, including the military homes in Colonel's Row.

“Our idea is to create the experience of 100 solo exhibitions that engage with and invigorate the historic spaces of Governors Island. This year, we made a concerted push to highlight more outdoor installation to further connect with the surrounding environment,” said Antony Zito, 4heads' Co-founder and Communications Director. “We are also thrilled to expand to Fort Jay, thanks to the efforts of the Governors Island National Monument. The masonry spaces with their arched ceilings and massive creaking doors lend themselves to a range of interpretations, and we are excited by the interactive installations and complex sculptural works that will fill and enliven those spaces.”

Featured artists are selected through a rigorous review process, and this year 4heads leadership culled through more than 1,000 submissions. Once chosen, exhibiting artists are given their space with few parameters and limitations. 4heads' "hands-off" curatorial approach allows participants to freely interpret the atmospheric and physical experience of the spaces and engage with the historic narratives of the Island, capturing a range of artistic visions and experimentations and breathing new life into the decommissioned spaces.

GIAF also features a selection of independent galleries, encouraging an active dialogue between artists and art dealers and creating dynamic juxtapositions and thematic through-lines among exhibitors. Among the galleries included in the 2015 edition are **HCWD Studio**, **Studio GAAK**, and **Hofmann Gallery**. GIAF is also partnering with the **Lower East Side Girls Club**, which will display art created as part of 4heads' education outreach program on the Island.

GIAF highlights the full spectrum of creative production, including painting, photography, sculpture, installation, mixed media, sound, and video work. While many of the artists represent the New York community, the 2015 fair also includes artists from around the country and the world, including those from Australia, Atlanta, Baltimore, California, Chicago, Connecticut, Germany, Iran, Japan, Nigeria, New Jersey, Peru, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C, among many other places. Some highlights from the fair, include:

- The work of **Kumasi J. Barnett**, who appropriates and alters well-recognized cultural icons, to probe and criticize socially accepted stereotypes and prejudices. In his latest series, he uses painting to alter the covers of beloved comic books to highlight the epidemic of police brutality against young black men.
- **Hannah Hill's** oil paintings, which are grounded in the folklore and otherworldliness of the Deep South. Taking memories, dreams, and real experiences as the foundation, Hill creates entirely new worlds and myths through the blurring and erosion of the paint, using the medium's inherent properties to instill new contexts in the images.
- **Sean Boggs's** slowly rotating sculptures, which examine deceleration, realignment, and constant adjustment. The sculptures, which consist of a kaleidoscope of polygons within polygons, adjust in so minimal succession that the changes almost go unnoticed until the experience becomes wholly changed.
- The digitally-mediated art of **Maximus Clarke**, whose work will be presented in The Magazine. Clarke is particularly interested in how people locate themselves within their physical surroundings and symbolic cultures. He takes stereoscopic photographs of people, places, and events to create manipulated images and experiences.
- **Sam Metcalf**, who explores the interplay between design, nature, and consciousness through visual aesthetics, engineering, and technology. His work is influenced by his recent experiences during a series of cross-country road trips and incorporates the sights and sounds of nature and city alike.

GIAF offers a new opportunity to explore Governors Island through more than 100 installations and exhibitions, taking advantage of the forgotten history and the scenic experience of the Island. Less than ten minutes from Manhattan by ferry, the fair offers a quick getaway from the city while highlighting the best of its creative culture.

For a full list of exhibitors for the 2015 edition of Governors Island Art Fair, please visit <http://www.4heads.org/2015-exhibitors/>.

**Artists in Residence:**

4heads also hosts an Artists in Residence program on Governors Island throughout the summer, which currently features 15 artists. The program was launched four years ago, and provides affordable workspaces as part of 4heads' mission to support the health and stability of the local artist community. As with GIAF, each artist is given a full room to use as their studio. Residents are spread across the former military homes in Nolan Park and Colonel's Row, reconstituting the previously abandoned houses. To engage the public with the creative process and the historic and cultural significance of Governors Island, the artist studios are open to visitors during certain weekends from late June through the run of GIAF. More information regarding residencies can be found at <http://www.4heads.org/item/open-studios/>.

**About 4heads, Inc:**

4heads is non-profit organization run by artists for artists. It was launched in 2008, when artists Nicole Laemmler, Jack Robinson, and Antony Zito saw an opportunity to create a platform that would serve emerging artists and the local community through exhibitions, education programs, and artistic collaborations. The organization's DIY spirit inspires and excites its audiences, while catalyzing a dialogue between artists and people from all walks of life. Its diverse slate of initiatives includes the Governors Island Art Fair, arts-education initiatives for underserved communities, and an Artists in Residence program. 4heads is committed to shedding new light on hidden culture and bringing new life to unexpected and unique spaces across the city.

**Getting to GIAF:**

Governors Island is less than 10 minutes away from Manhattan and Brooklyn by ferry.

Ferries dock at Battery Maritime Building in Manhattan (10 South Street) and Brooklyn Bridge Park's Pier 6 (Atlantic Avenue at Columbia Street).

Brooklyn and Manhattan ferries are free before noon and \$2 thereafter for a round-trip ticket.

Additional information about getting to Governors Island can be found on the 4heads website at [www.4heads.org](http://www.4heads.org)

**GIAF Hours and Admission:**

Every Saturday and Sunday from September 5 - 27, 2015.

11:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Admission is free.

Exhibition catalogues are available for purchase for \$20. For further information call 212.673.9074 or visit [www.4heads.org](http://www.4heads.org).

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