



Eighth Annual Governors Island Art Fair Draws High Attendance

Quality and Range of Featured Works Solidifies GIAF's Position as Must-See In Fall Arts Calendar

October 5, 2015 (New York)—The Governors Island Art Fair (GIAF) closed on Sunday, September 27, with fair organizers, the nonprofit 4heads, praising the high attendance for the eighth edition of the annual fair, which brought in approximately 50,000 visitors in its four weekend run. GIAF, which is presented across the historic, military homes on Colonels Row, expanded this year to feature works in the underground ammunition chambers at Fort Jay, enhancing its mission to provide artists with dynamic and little-known spaces in which to show.

The 2015 edition featured 109 exhibitors, including emerging artists from across the US, representing Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, Dallas, and cities throughout California, as well as those from abroad, including from Australia, Burkina Faso, Germany, Japan, Korea, Nigeria, and Peru, among others. The fair also presented the work of several independent galleries and nonprofit organizations, including Art Shape Mammoth, Studio GAAK, Hofmann Gallery, and Lower East Side Girls Club. GIAF gives each exhibitor a full room, or outdoor environment, in which to install, providing featured artists with ample space to present a range of work. The 2015 fair included more than 600 works of art, across a spectrum of media, priced broadly between \$100 and \$30,000.

Among the 2015 fair's highest selling artists are:

- **Hannah Hill.** The New York-based artist's paintings and drawings fuse her childhood memories of the Deep South with new mythic and dreamlike worlds.
- **Sam Horowitz.** For GIAF, Horowitz presented a range of wood works, including small-scale sculptural objects and a large-scale installation that invited active engagement with visitors.
- **Francesca Facciola.** Facciola's ultra-lifelike paintings examine the human body, and its many variations, scars, and marks. Her drawings, done in extreme detail, examine the body's internal systems.
- **Simona Prives.** A 4heads 2015 artist-in-residence, Prives's collages focus on processes of decay and reconstruction and explore the relationships between the organic and man-made.
- **Marc Brown Sr.** A Bronx native, Brown's drawings, etchings, paintings, and mixed-media collages explore life in New York City, and are particularly inspired by scenes from the transit system, where social, political, and economic stratas collide.

GIAF also saw an increase in outdoor installations—several of which, including the much lauded large-scale, mixed media installation by **Aleksandr Razin**, were created especially for the show—following a concerted effort from leadership to enhance the scope of outdoor activity for the fair. This year marked the highest volume of applications for GIAF to-date, with leadership culling through more than 1,000

submissions to select the most diverse array of media, styles, and perspectives. Approximately 80% of exhibitors were new to the fair, and nearly 40% created work especially for it.

Led by New York-based artists Nicole Laemmle, Jack Robinson, and Antony Zito, GIAF offers new opportunities for artists to display and bring visibility to their work. As the fair has grown, it has become an important platform for collectors, gallerists, and art world professionals to discover new talent, and for artists to connect with each other and a wide range of visitors.

"It was a record year for GIAF on many levels--from the high number of applicants, which strengthened the scope and range of featured work, to the addition of installation space at the Fort Jay magazine, to the tremendous growth in sales and audience interest and engagement," said Nicole Laemmle, 4heads co-founder. "Above all though, we are inspired and grateful for the enthusiastic response from our featured artists. This is so important to us. Our main goal is to grow and cultivate this community of artists, and when we hear excitement directly from them, it is the truest measure of our success."

Additional fair standouts, include:

- **Laurent Fort.** Using LED light sources and reflective materials, Fort created a series of luminous environments projected on screens and the walls of the Fort Jay Magazine, making the once bare chamber feel like an otherworldly, underwater realm.
- **Jayoung Yoon.** Yoon creates fiber sculptures made of human hair. At once fragile and flexible, the sculptures explore the connection between the physical and spiritual and the tactile and ephemeral.
- **Candice Flewharty.** Flewharty presented her ongoing series, EMOJI'S--FROM LIFE ABOUT LIFE, which features highly-realistic self-portraits altered to represent the commonly-used visual, digital language.
- **Maximus Clarke.** Presented in the Fort Jay magazine, Clarke installed a multi-screen, stereoscopic, single-channel video that invited visitors to engage with the relationship between the 2D and 3D experience.
- **Michelle Claire Gevint.** Inspired by her home country of Israel, Gevint combines architectural modeling with collage and montage to create ambiguous and desolate urban environments that speak to the failure of Utopian architecture.

4heads is also committed to providing a range of education programs for children. This year, GIAF featured Mobile School Bus Dream, an interactive workshop for kids, led by artist **Alassane Drabo** (Burkina Faso) of The Artworks Collective. The workshop invited children between the ages of six and fourteen to use paints and crafts materials to represent their dreams for the future, using a twenty-two foot school bus donated by Villani Bus Company of Linden, New Jersey as their canvas. Additionally, throughout the last two weekends, GIAF hosted **The Sketchbook Project**, which is home to a mobile collection of sketchbooks created by artists from across the country—dovetailing with GIAF's mission to engage audiences with a diversity of artists to whom they might not otherwise have access.

GIAF has already opened the submission process for the 2016 edition, which will return to the Island every weekend in September 2016.

About 4heads, Inc:

4heads is non-profit organization run by artists for artists. It was launched in 2008, when artists Nicole Laemmle, 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.

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.

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