



## **Ninth Annual Governors Island Art Fair Draws Nearly 60,000 Visitors, Further Solidifying its Position as a Must-See on the Fall Arts Calendar**

### **Leadership Also Announced Artist Open Call for Second Annual Portal Art Fair, Opening to the Public on May 3**

**October 3, 2016 (New York)**—The nonprofit 4heads announced today that the ninth annual Governors Island Art Fair (GIAF) drew nearly 60,000 visitors in its four weekend run, an approximate 10,000-person increase from the previous edition. GIAF expanded for the second consecutive year, adding Castle Williams as a presentation site for the 2016 iteration. More than 100 artists, working across a spectrum of media, installed their work in Colonels Row, Fort Jay, Castle Williams, and designated outdoor locations, attracting a diverse public of arts collectors, patrons, and novices to the historic locales.

Among the highest selling artists this year were **Marcy Sperry**, whose colorful and elaborately beaded canvases resemble topographies of distant lands; **Jim Garmhausen**, who uses his background as a cartoonist to create dynamic characters and narratives in his paintings, works on paper, and sculptures; **Meegan Barnes**, who presented a series of ceramic sculptures inspired by the derriere; and **Sam Horowitz**, whose sculptures made of found and refurbished wood were also popular in the 2015 edition of GIAF. The more than 500 works featured at GIAF ranged in price between \$100 and \$20,000, and total sales at the conclusion of the fair were approximately \$30,000, with additional sales in progress and to follow.

Other major GIAF standouts were **Chaney Trotter**, who installed a larger than life-size ribcage made of driftwood inside one of the casemates at Castle Williams; **Charlie Cunningham**, whose painted plaster and wood banana figures were found falling down the stairs at Colonels Row and entrapped in a casemate at Castle Williams; an installation of more than 300 hanging, paper guns by **Ethan Minsker**, which inspired discussions on gun violence in America; **Patrice Yourdon's** children's clothes and bonnets fashioned from metal nails and screws; and **José Carlos Casado's** colorful aluminum sculpture, which enlivened the outdoor court of Castle Williams.

“Each year, Jack, Zito, and I are inspired and invigorated by the diversity and aesthetic and conceptual quality of our artists’ presentations. This year is no exception. In particular, we saw the many dynamic and enriching ways that artists from New York and around the world are engaging with some of today’s most pressing and timely issues, encouraging dialogue and providing respite from these challenges,” said Nicole Laemmle, 4heads co-founder. “4heads has always been committed to exploring place and history through contemporary art. This is why we present our fairs in important historic locations throughout the city, and we are especially delighted by the way visitors have connected with the artists, the work, and

spaces. It's been an incredibly successful year, and we are looking forward to planning something really special for our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017.”

All of the featured artists were selected via an open call, which was available to those new and returning to the 4heads community. As with previous iterations, artists presenting indoors were given full rooms to showcase their work—a model that offers the flexibility to present both large-scale installations and curate micro exhibitions. And indeed, artists took best advantage with more than 30 creating new site-responsive works, and the remaining presenting a vast array of paintings, photographs, sculpture, works on paper, and video and sound installations. In keeping with 4heads' mission to support and develop audiences for working artists, exhibitors were offered participation in GIAF for free and kept 70% of all sales.

With the conclusion of GIAF, 4heads also announced today that the call for artists to participate in the second edition of Portal art fair, which is slated to open to the public on May 3 at Federal Hall National Memorial, is now live and will remain active through January 2017.

The call is open to all individual artists, working in the US and abroad. Artists can submit applications at [4heads.org](http://4heads.org). Applicants are required to provide a personal statement, CV, and portfolio of works, as well as detailed plans for any site-specific installations. Artists will be selected by 4heads leadership, comprised of Nicole Laemmle, Jack Robinson, and Antony Zito, and notified regarding inclusion in February 2017.

Portal was launched in May 2016 at Federal Hall on Wall Street as a sister fair to GIAF, offering artists a new platform through which to present their work and engage collectors during the highly active Frieze Week. Portal reflects 4heads mission to enliven and bring attention to little-known historic sites throughout the city, while building a network of support and collaboration among today's artists.

“Portal is an opportunity for us to continue to support artists that have previously shown at GIAF, and to also bring new artists into our community. With Portal, we are particularly interested in engaging with the spectacular architecture of Federal Hall, reimagining it for both locals, who are little aware of it, and those visiting New York,” said Antony Zito, 4heads co-founder. “So much of what's happening during Frieze Week is about the traditional white cube. Our vision is to present something entirely different. Something that explores and presents contemporary art within the context of history, as it relates to art but also culture more broadly.”

#### **About 4heads:**

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, Portal, 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](http://www.4heads.org)

###

For more information, please contact:

Alina Sumajin  
PAVE Communications & Consulting  
alina@paveconsult.com  
646-369-2050