



Comprehensive Artist List for Ninth Edition of Governors Island Art Fair Announced

Fair Opens to Public on September 3 With More than 100 Artists Featured Across the Island

New York—June 15, 2016—The nonprofit 4heads announced today the comprehensive artist list for the ninth edition of the Governors Island Art Fair (GIAF), which will open to the public on September 3 and remain on view every Saturday and Sunday throughout the month. The selling fair features more than 100 artists, who represent a wide breadth of creative practice, from painting and photography to sculpture to video, sound, and mixed media installations. Artists will install works in the former military homes on Colonels Row, in the cavernous, underground spaces at Fort Jay, and in designated outdoor spaces throughout the Island, kicking off New York’s fall art season with a dynamic array of artist installations, including many created especially for GIAF. As with previous iterations, artists featured at Colonels Row and Fort Jay will be provided with individual rooms in which to present their work, creating the experience of a series of solo exhibitions and allowing artists to fully take advantage of the historic architectural spaces.

“Every new season, we do our best to present a depth of work that will keep the experience fresh and exciting for visitors, whether an art-lover, collector, or someone who just stumbled into the fair while visiting the Island. At the same time, we are aware of the dialogues that are happening within our community of artists, which really reflect our culture and the issues of our time,” said Antony Zito, 4heads, co-founder. “We choose work that demonstrates a strong vision and sense of craft, work that speaks to the daily lives and concerns of our visitors. This year, we are featuring artists who are exploring and commenting on such important issues as the epidemic of police violence and the impact of human progress on the natural environment, as well as personal issues, like phobias and alienation. It’s a truly diverse mix, in subject and media.”

The upcoming GIAF also marks 4heads’ ongoing partnerships with the Trust for Governors Island and the National Park Service—with whom it also collaborated on the inaugural edition of Portal art fair in May. “We are delighted to continue to partner with these amazing organizations, who are tremendous stewards to important sites across our city, and also share our vision and enthusiasm for connecting audiences to these historic locations through contemporary art. We look forward to working with them to create an all-new experience on Governors Island that engages a diversity of audiences, new and returning to the Island,” said Nicole Laemmle, 4heads co-founder.

For the ninth edition of GIAF, 4heads leadership made selections from an artist open call, which was held in spring and available to artists new to the 4heads community as well as those who previously showed at Portal art fair and GIAF. Among the returning artists are Emily Chatton, Ed Grant, Sam Horowitz, George Kroenert, Rodrigo Nava, Aleksandr Razin, and several others. Including these returning artists reflects 4heads’ mission to increase opportunities for working artists to show their work and to

continually nurture the careers of artists who are part of the growing 4heads community. 4heads continues to offer participation in their fairs free of charge to artists, with 70% of proceeds from sales going directly to the artists.

“Nix, Zito, and I are all working artists. We recognize how difficult it can be to garner visibility and support, so with GIAF, and with Portal, we see our roles more as facilitators than artists. We provide the opportunity and framework of the fair, but we recognize that it is really the exceptional work of the featured artists that brings these spaces and the event to life. It’s about them, and the selection process and overarching fair model is one way to emphasize that vision,” said Jack Robinson, 4heads co-founder.

A comprehensive list of featured artists follows below. Highlights from the fair include:

- **New York-based artist Olivia Taylor**, who focuses on the tactility and physical attributes of skin. She says of her subject, “The aesthetic of one's skin gives insight into many of the wearer's traits: history, style, ethnicity, age, etc. At the same time, these characteristics also operate on a purely physical level, highlighting different bodily effects, such as bruises, freckles, or veins.” For her paintings, Taylor creates her own skin-like material, using a system of casting in silicone and painting in translucent layers to achieve a lifelike aesthetic. Elements of the skin are broken from their context, emphasizing color and texture and encouraging visitors to experience the work through touch. The works pull the viewer between satisfaction and repulsion. For her presentation at GIAF, Taylor plans to reupholster cushioned wooden chairs with her own material, using the skin in place of standard textiles, and adorn the walls with muted colored pieces, with bruises serving as a floral accent.
- **New York-based artist Manju Shandler**, who uses her background as a master puppet builder and set designer for The Walt Disney Company and The Muppets to construct visual narratives that speak to contemporary events. Much of Shandler’s mixed media works focus on themes relating to mankind’s destruction of the natural world in pursuit of progress. Of her process she says, “I isolate a contemporary phenomenon, seek out relevant and related myths and stories, and illustrate their intersection. In my own two-dimensional work, I often incorporate polyester film, a thin translucent plastic. I mark this surface with India ink, grease pencil, printing, acrylic and spray paint, and then sew the work together, creating large multi-layered plastic tapestries.” Shandler will create a site-specific work for GIAF, drawing on the decaying architecture of the homes in Colonels Row as a backdrop to explore the turmoil of political and social wars at home and abroad.
- **New York-based artist Kat Ryals**, who uses dry plate tintype, one of the first photographic processes, to explore the relationships between what we deem as “human” and “animal”. Kat says of her work, “It explores curiosities, “otherness”, hybridity, exploitation, and the human condition. With this most recent body of tintypes, called Anthropomorphous, I combined animal features and human characteristics to create a visual hybrid between the two. Hybridity is often used to illustrate the contemporary blending of cultures and societies due to globalization, but this particular use of hybridity unites us all under the same umbrella as animal.” The use of the tintype also connects Ryals’ work to the portrayal of “freaks” throughout history, emphasizing both our interest in and fear of “otherness.” Ryals will display approximately 20 tintypes at GIAF, along with new sculptures created for the fair that relate to the subject.

- **Los Angeles-based artist Meegan Barnes**, whose sculptures frequently feature “a voluptuous derriere”. Barnes’ sculptures are inspired by craft traditions, and reference ancient artifacts and folklore, spiritual symbolism, warrior women, and pop culture. She describes her sculpture as “cheeky, irreverent, and empowering. They are feminine and feminist. Butts are sensual, symmetrical, and also represent a duality that’s a big part of my own personality.” For her installation at GIAF, Barnes will group her sculptures in a manner that speaks to narratives about pop culture, body image, feminism, and the history of female form in art.
- **The artistic duo Coalfather Industries**, which consists of Kara Jansson and Craig Newsom, working between New York and Illinois. Their work melds video, animation, and performance to explore how consumerism, technology, and surveillance encourage a culture of anxiety. They say of their practice, “We focus on the endless cycle of desire, consumption, and disappointment pervasive in contemporary life.” They will show their video “User History,” which was shot at Governors Island, Rockaway Beach, on Route 66 in Illinois, and in central Finland, in the underground ammunitions chambers at Fort Jay.
- **Copenhagen-based artist Mikkel Johnsen**, who explores the relationship between industrial architecture and landscape photography. “My images have a sense of the uncanny. Something isn’t quite right. I want the viewer to become curious and shape her/his own conception of the contextual history and the relationship between the landscape and the architecture,” said Johnsen. The architectural elements in the photographs are imaginary, and are composed and processed photographically. The landscapes are also imaginary, and are composed of many different images taken in different places and at different times during the day. For GIAF, Johnsen will present a set of his photographs to relate to the space in which they are presented.
- **New York-based artist Sam Horowitz**, whose mixed wood installation and sculptures were among the major highlights of the 2015 edition of GIAF. Horowitz is currently participating in 4heads’ Artist in Residence program on Governors Island, and his summer studio space on Colonels Row will evolve into his exhibition for the upcoming GIAF. Of his process Horowitz says, “I have been collecting vines, curious branches, and scrap wood from my shop, which I will craft into a series of screens. The screens will grow into one another organically, fusing as if alive and steering the audience deep within the folds of twig and vine. The screens are scorched and raw, burned, pitted, and somewhat forbidding.”

Comprehensive artist list:

Wiley Aker (New Orleans), video installation

Antonia Andrioti (New York), painting and prints

Meegan Barnes (Los Angeles), sculpture

Kumasi J. Barnett (New York), painting and works on paper

Charlotte Becket (New York), painting, sculpture, and projection

E. Thurston Belmer (New York), painting

Chris Blyth (New York), painting

Nora Breen (New York), mixed media installation and performance

Cody James Bryant (Morrisville, VT), sculpture and photography

Blair Cahill (Ojai, CA), mixed media installation

Yuxi Cao (New York), video installation

José Carlos Casado (New York), video and mixed media installation
Emily Chatton (New York), mixed media installation
Lauren Ciarpella (New York), video installation and performance
***Coalfather Industries / Kara Jansson and Craig Newsom** (New York), video, mixed media installation, and performance
Kenny Cole (Monroe, ME), painting and works on paper
Lauren Covey (New York), video installation
Charles Cunningham (Ledyard, CT), sculpture
Adam Daily (New York), painting
Stef Duffy (New York), painting and photography
Rosanne Ebner (New York), sculpture
Heloisa Escudero (Arlington, VA), mixed media installation and performance
Jada Fabrizio (Maywood, NJ), mixed media installation and photography
Raphael Fenton-Spaïd (New York), mixed media installation
Sherman Finch (Cypress, TX), assemblage and sound installation
Dolores Furtado (New York, NM), sculpture
Borinquen Gallo (New York), mixed media installation
Pablo Garcia Lopez (New York), sculpture
Jim Garmhausen (New York), drawing
Scott Gillis (New York), painting and drawing
Kelly Goff (Norwood, MA), mixed media installation
Peter Goldwater (New York), sculpture
***Jason Rabie and Rees Steel** (New York), mixed media installation, sound, and performance
Ed Grant (New York), photography
Jennifer Grossman (Chicago), sound and video installation
Erol Gündüz (New York), sculpture
Carole Halle (New York), sculpture and drawing
Allen Hansen (New York), painting
Joseph Heidecker (Milanville, PA), sculpture
Sam Horowitz (New York), sculpture
Tang-Wei Hsu (New York), sculpture
Mikkel Johnsen (Copenhagen), photography
Jennifer June (New York), mixed media installation
Umberto Kamperveen (New York), sculpture
Yunjung Kang (Bloomfield Hills, MI), sculpture
Kyle Kearson (New Haven, CT), sculpture
Elizabeth Keithline (New York), fiberglass installation
Kim Kieun (New York), video installation
Norbert Kimmel (New York), sculpture
Garrett Klein (New York), sculpture
Mitsutaka Konagi (New York), sculpture
Seunghwui Koo (New York), mixed media installation
Bernice Sokol Kramer (New York), photography and collage
George Kroenert (New York), sculpture

Sahar Kubba (New York), drawing, mixed media installation, and performance
Luiza Kurzyna (New York), sculpture and performance
Abshalom Lahov (New York), drawing and photography
Sarah Langsam (New York), sculpture
Netta Laufer (New York), video and photography
Eric Lawrence (New York), sculpture
Niki Lederer (New York), sculpture
Rainy Lehrman (New York), sculpture
Mark Lohar (Middlesex, VT), mixed media installation
***Sarah Holcomb and Patrick Sandefur** (New York), mixed media installation and performance
Melinda McDaniel (New York), photography and installation
Jason McGroarty (Letterkenny, Ireland), photography
Emmy Mikelson (New York), painting, sculpture, and projection
Ethan Minsker (New York), sculpture
Judith Modrak (New York), sculpture
Laura Moriarty (New York), painting and works on paper
Michael Murray (New York), photography
Rodrigo Nava (Putney, VT), sculpture
Lori Nelson (New York), painting
Matthias Neumann (New York), sculpture, installation, and performance
Taezoo Park (New York), video installation
Agathi Pavlidis (Somerville, MA), painting
Christina Pitsch (Bedford, NH), sculpture and installation
Aleksandar Popovic (New York), painting
Lawrence Quigley (New York), painting
Aleksandr Razin (New York), mixed media installation
Alicia Renadette (Holyoke, MA), sculpture and drawing
Cynthia Ruse (New York), drawing
Kathryn Rusek (New York), sculpture
Kat Ryals (New York), photography
Gene Schmidt (New York), sculpture
Emily Schnellbacher (Philadelphia), mixed media installation
Masha Sha (Boulder, CO), painting and drawing
Manju Shandler (New York), mixed media installation
Jonathan Sims (New York), painting
Constance Slaughter (New York), sculpture
Marcy Sperry (New York), beadwork
Meg Stein (Durham, NC), sculpture
Olivia Taylor (New York), painting and sculpture
Torreja (New York), painting and drawing
Chaney Trotter (New York), painting and installation
Ekaterina Vanovskaya (Highlands, NJ), painting
Claudia Vieira (New York), drawing and installation
Jia Wang (New York), animation

Yefeng Wang (Providence, RI), digital installation
Alisha Wessler (New York), drawing and mixed media installation
Shihori Yamamoto (New York), mixed media installation
Patrice Yourdon (New York), sculpture
Debra Zechowski (New York), painting
Robert Zurer (New York), painting

*indicates a two-person collaboration

About 4heads:

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, Portal 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

GIAF Hours and Admission:

Every Saturday and Sunday from September 3 - 25, 2016.

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.

For more information, please contact:

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