



**Governors Island Art Fair Returns for 11th Edition in September,
With Installations Presented Across Colonels Row**

**Opening to Public Labor Day Weekend,
And On View Every Weekend in September**

New York—On September 1, 4heads will open the Governors Island Art Fair (GIAF), featuring a diverse range of artists from across the U.S. and abroad. Installations, which span the spectrum of artistic genre and media, will be presented across eight of the historic homes on Colonels Row, with each artist installing in an individual room or connective space. Now in its 11th year, GIAF heralds the start of the fall visual arts season in New York, with a spirited atmosphere that encourages conversation between artists and visitors and challenges the established fair paradigm as one exclusively for art connoisseurs. GIAF will be open every Saturday and Sunday through September 30.

A press preview will be held on Wednesday, August 29, and feature some of the participating artists as well as 4heads leadership, including Nicole Laemmler, Jack Robinson, and Antony Zito.

GIAF, which first launched in 2008, was among the first major art events to take place on Governors Island. As interest in the Island as a cultural destination has grown, in particular over the last several years, 4heads has remained steadfast in maintaining its presence, continuing to provide working artists with a place to show new and recent work and to build their network of support—both among peers and the public. Each year, GIAF presents the work of up to 100 artists, selected through an open call and jurying process. For the 2018 edition, as with previous iterations, each artist will be given a full room—free of charge—to create an immersive installation or micro-exhibition, allowing the artists more space to highlight their distinct approaches and techniques.

“As more and more alternative spaces and galleries dedicated to emerging artists are forced to close in the current market climate, we see GIAF is ever more essential. As a group of artists ourselves, we know firsthand how difficult it can be to find opportunities to show work and have meaningful engagement with a range of audiences. GIAF has come to be known as a space to discover, where each year the diversity of artists surprises, inspires, engages, and challenges. We are excited to enter our 11th year, as an artist-for-artist organization, and one that maintains its DIY ethos, offers working artists a dynamic platform, and fosters conversations between artists and the public,” said Laemmler.

“When we first started showing on Governors Island, we were one of the only arts organizations to see the value and interest of occupying the many historic spaces on the Island—breaking out of the white cube and showing our artists in rooms that were frayed, and a little unwieldy, and yet offered a compelling and unexpected context and platform. We are excited to see the growing interest in the Island as an arts locale and look forward to building new partnerships and opportunities for our participating artists and for the public, so that we can continue to bring new artistic voices and concepts to the fore—

evening the playing field and giving primacy to emerging, mid-career, and little-known artists,” added Zito.

Participating artists for the 2018 edition of GIAF were selected by 4heads co-founders Laemmle, Robinson, and Zito from more than 800 proposals submitted through the nonprofit’s open call. The selection includes artists new to the 4heads community, as well as those that have shown previously at the group’s art fairs. GIAF continues to offer fair participation to artists free of charge, with 70% of sales also going directly to the artists.

Among the featured artists are:

- Pennsylvania-based artist **Samuelle Green**, who will create a site-specific, immerse installation for GIAF. Green constructs her environments from thousands of hand-rolled paper cones, which when combined reference the complex but often overlooked forms found in nature, such as beehives, birds’ nests, and spider webs. Her installations bring these delicate and evocative formations to human scale, encouraging close looking and engagement with the natural world we so often take for granted.
- Irish artist **Emma Louise Moore**, who will present her most recent body of work exploring the ways in which we push aside ethical consciousness in our everyday choices, and the impact those decisions have on the environment and human interactions. For GIAF, Moore will create a false wall, into which she will carve recognizable forms and texts. These voids will then be filled with figurative sculptures, made in silicone and morphed to fit the open spaces.
- Connecticut-based artist **Benjamin Quesnel**, whose recent works are inspired by an abandoned mail truck found in the woods of northern Connecticut. The vehicle revealed a box full of mail from 1982, which had never made it to its destination. The discovery led Quesnel to explore ideas around the messages that we send or choose not to share, and ones that we want to express but that are never received or understood by their intended recipients. The truck will be installed on the lawn in front of Colonels Row, with some of the original letters available for the public to read. The installation will encourage visitors to find connections with the authors and leave letters of their own.
- Brooklyn-based painter **Jake Scharbach**, whose works have been shaped by his childhood in a small town in Washington state. For GIAF, Scharbach will present several new paintings, which explore the creation and materialization of symbols as a means of analyzing contemporary cultural values. The paintings create contradictions and conflicts between history and contemporaneity, as well as our personal ideals and perspectives and the reality of social constructs.
- Iranian artist **Moeinedin Shashaei**, who will create an installation constructed from casts of the mouths of the people with whom he’s had in-person conversations since moving to New York City in 2014. The work explores and critiques contemporary forms of communication, highlighting how despite the technological advances made in connecting people we seem ever more distant from each other, incapable of speaking and forming community.

- New York-based artist **Pasakorn Nontananandh**, who will create an interactive digital installation, titled *Collective of Time Being*. The installation joins pieces of the artist's personal history and memories with the actions and movements of the visiting public, captured in real-time through the use of Kinect sensor devices. Together, the images from the artist's memory and the movements of the audience bend and confuse time.

The presentation of Nontananandh's work is part of an ongoing partnership between 4heads and the School of the Visual Arts, providing young artists with an opportunity to engage with other working artists and showcase their work outside of the context of student exhibitions. Graduating SVA students are able to apply with their thesis projects and go through the same jurying process as the other fair participants.

A comprehensive list of featured artists is available upon request.

About 4heads:

4heads is a 501(c)3 nonprofit arts organization run by artists for artists. It was launched in New York in 2008, when Nicole Laemmler, Jack Robinson, and Antony Zito, who are working artists themselves, 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 helps catalyze the ongoing 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 a summer Artists in Residence program on Governors Island. 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 run from Lower Manhattan every day from the Battery Maritime Building at 10 South Street with service from Brooklyn Bridge Park Pier 6 on Saturdays, Sundays, and Labor Day.

All weekday and weekend afternoon ferries from Brooklyn and Manhattan are \$2 round trip for adults. Children under 12, NYCID holders and Governors Island members ride for free at all times and senior citizens' fares are half price. Morning ferries (10 AM and 11 AM and 11:30 AM from Manhattan and 11 AM and 11:30 AM from Brooklyn) on Saturdays and Sundays are free for all. There is no surcharge for bicycles. For schedule and more information, visit <http://govisland.com>.

NYC Ferry also stops at Governors Island Pier 102 on Saturdays and Sundays via the East River and South Brooklyn Route. For more tickets, schedule and more information visit <http://www.ferry.nyc/>.

GIAF Hours and Admission:

Every Saturday and Sunday from September 1 – September 30, 2018.

11:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Admission is free.

Exhibition catalogues are available for purchase for \$20. For further information contact info@4heads.org or visit www.4heads.org.

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For more information, please contact:

Alina E. Sumajin
Co-founder and Principal
PAVE Communications & Consulting
alina@paveconsult.com / 646-369-2050