

NEWS

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- 07.14.16 Irish Museum of Modern Art Partners with Hennessy to Establish Acquisition Fund
- 07.14.16 Artists Urge Israel to Release Palestinian Poet From House Arrest
- 07.14.16 Agustín Arteaga to Lead Dallas Museum of Art as New Director

POSTED JULY 15, 2016

The Contemporary Austin Establishes \$100,000 Art Prize

The Contemporary Austin has announced that it has established the Suzanne Deal Booth Art Prize, a \$100,000 biennial award that includes a solo exhibition at the institution's Jones Center and a scholarly publication. The prize will support working artists in various stages of their careers.

The award's selection committee consists of Deal Booth; Heather Pesanti, the museum's senior curator; Stephanie Barron, senior curator and head of LACMA's Modern Art Department; Naomi Beckwith, curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; Peter Eleey, chief curator at MoMA PS1; Hamza Walker, director of education and associate curator at the University of Chicago's The Renaissance Society; and Heidi Zuckerman, CEO and director of the Aspen Art Museum. The inaugural winner will be announced this fall, and the exhibition accompanying the prize will be held in 2018.

Deal Booth earned her Master's degree in art history and conservation from New York University's Institute of Fine Arts. During her studies, she worked with collector and philanthropist Dominique de Menil. Deal Booth has worked at several institutions, including Les Monuments Historiques, Kimbell Art Museum, the Menil Collection, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the J. Paul Getty Trust. She also serves on the boards of The Contemporary, LACMA, the Menil Collection, the Centre Pompidou Foundation, and Ballroom Marfa. The arts patron established the Booth Scholar in Residence at the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies and the Booth Family Rome Prize Fellowship at the American Academy in Rome.









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LATEST NEWS

JULY 18, 2016

Atlanta Biennial Announces List of Participating Artists

The Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, or Atlanta Contemporary, has announced the thirty-three artists participating in the returning Atlanta Biennial. Veronica Kessenich, the executive director at Atlanta Contemporary, said of the upcoming exhibition: "This Biennial brings together four curators with distinct points of view and curatorial methodologies... They found common ground in their combined interest to exhibit individuals and collectives who have never before participated in a Biennial. While the participants represent eight states from across the Southeast, they do not relegate themselves to any specific sense of geography or space rather, together, their work examines the current state of contemporary art and contemporary issues."



The list of artists who will exhibit in the show, running August 27 through December 18, 2016, is as follows:

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JULY 18, 2016

Le Corbusier Buildings Given UNESCO World Heritage Status

According to the UNESCO website, seventeen sites around the world designed by the Swiss-French architect Le Corbusier have been



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Newest Entries

- Arielle Bier at the 5th Moscow International Biennale for Young Art
- Linda Yablonsky at the annual Deste Foundation weekend
- Cathryn Drake on "Thinking at the Edge of the World"
- Linda Yablonsky around the 47th Art Basel

Linda Yablonsky on the new Tate Modern and Manifesta 11

* Kevin McGarry at the 9th Berlin Biennale

added to the UNESCO World Heritage List for "Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement," after two previous proposals to add the sites to the list were declined in 2009 and 2011. The seventeen sites, situated across seven countries, include his Marseille housing project *La Cite Radieuse*, *La Villa Savoye* near Paris, and *The Capitol Complex* at Chandigarh in northern India. The World Heritage Committee added these to their list yesterday morning at their meeting in Istanbul, Turkey, where proceedings as to which sites to add were interrupted by the recent military coup in that country. The committee originally convened on July 10 and included Kadir Topbaş, the mayor of Istanbul, and Öcal Oğuz, president of the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO.



A statement from UNESCO director-general Irina Bokova noted that World Heritage accreditation is "the idea that people of all cultures and faith can unite around outstanding universal value...When a World Heritage site is destroyed anywhere in the world, we all suffer, we are all diminished, even if it is from another region, another period, another culture...What is at stake here is more than adding new sites on a list. It is about reaffirming human values and human rights. It is about healing wounded memories, harnessing heritage to regain confidence, to recover and look into the future."

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JULY 18, 2016

Damien Hirst's Formaldehyde Works Declared Safe, Countering Previous Published Report

After a [previous study](#) claimed that Damien Hirst's pickled animal works—consisting of sealed containers featuring dead animals suspended in formaldehyde—may have been dangerous to the public due to leaking fumes, Gareth Harris at the *Art Newspaper* reports that the study has been retracted by one of its authors, who now declares that its findings are "inaccurate and unreliable."



A research team led by a professor of chemistry at Milan Polytechnic, Pier Giorgio Righetti, based their original report on monitoring the levels of formaldehyde at Hirst's 2012 Tate Modern show, which included works such as *Mother and Child Divided*, composed of four tanks containing a bisected cow and calf preserved in the formaldehyde. The study claimed that readings of the chemical in the gallery, recorded at five parts per million, were in excess of European Union regulations that set the limit at 0.5 parts per million. Righetti has now retracted the paper though, which was titled "Remote sensing of formaldehyde fumes in indoor environments," and published online earlier this year by the London-based Royal Society of Chemistry in its journal *Analytical Methods*.

The executive editor of the journal, Philippa Hughes, said: "Further to the expression of concern we published last week, we are following due process towards retraction, in line with our ethical publishing policy and in consultation with the authors." Hirst's company, Science Ltd, investigated the claims after they were published, consulting with a professor of physical chemistry at Oxford University, Claire Vallance, who noted "Science Ltd and the authors of the paper co-operated to conduct further tests on formaldehyde works using the equipment referred to in the paper as well as commercially available equipment used by Science Ltd to test the presence of formaldehyde fumes." None of these subsequent tests showed readings of formaldehyde higher than 0.1 parts per million present. Righetti has stated that he regrets any alarm or concern caused by the findings.

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JULY 18, 2016

Athens Biennale Announces New Partner and Codirector

The Athens Biennale has announced that Nayia Yiakoumaki will join the biennial team as a new partner and director of research and international networks. She will work with founding director Poka-Yio to curate a broad program of exhibitions and public events. Yiakoumaki said of her new post: "I feel privileged to be joining the Athens Biennale whose activity I have followed closely and I look forward to contribute to its future success as a leading international organization for debate and presentation of contemporary art."



Along with her new role at the Athens Biennale, Yiakoumaki will also continue her job as curator at the Whitechapel Gallery in London where she has worked since 2005. Yiakoumaki also organizes the NEON Curatorial Exchange & Award, an initiative funded by NEON and administered by the Whitechapel Gallery to foster professional relationships for emerging curators. She has organized a number of exhibitions, including "John Latham: Anarchive," (2010), "This is Tomorrow," (2011), "Rothko in Britain," (2012), "Stephen Willats: Concerning Our Present Way of Living," (2014) and most recently "Intellectual Barbarians: The Kibbo Kift Kindred," (2015-2016).

The biennial is organized by the Athens Biennale Non-Profit Organization, which was founded in November 2005 by Xenia Kalpaktoglou, Poka-Yio, and Augustine Zenakos.

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JULY 17, 2016

Alan Vega (1938–2016)

The artist, musician, and performer Alan Vega died on Saturday according to a statement from his family that was posted by the vocalist and radio host Henry Rollins, formerly of the California hardcore band Black Flag, on his website. Vega was best known as the vocalist for the band Suicide, which he formed with Martin Rev in 1970 in New York and is widely considered to be influential to a number of subgenres of music, including punk, industrial, and techno. Their live shows were infamous and marked by a notable level of violence and aggression, including one incident where according to Vega he had an axe thrown at his head at a show in Glasgow in 1978, presaging the dangerous reputation punk rock would come to accrue. Vega himself tended to carry a chain around on stage and cut himself during performances.



Born in Brooklyn as Alan Bermowitz, Vega was working in sculpture and experimenting with electronics at the Project of Living Artists, a publicly funded workshop downtown, when he met Martin Rev. They formed Suicide and began performing at galleries, with their second-ever show titled "Punk Music Mass," which some say was the first time a band used the word "punk" to describe their own music. The band's name was inspired by "Satan Suicide," an issue of Vega's favorite comic book, *Ghost Rider*, the latter of which was also used as the title of one of their songs. Their first album came out in 1977 and featured the infamous ten-minute track "Frankie Teardrop," which narrates the tale of a man pushed to his limits by poverty, eventually murdering his own wife and child before killing himself.

Suicide became inactive in the 1980s, but Vega went on to briefly become a popular singer in France, bagging a deal with a major label that tried to market him as a more alternative Bruce Springsteen. He continued to release solo albums, the latest of which was *Station*, released in 2008, and sell his sculptures in more recent years.

The statement from Vega's family on his passing is excerpted below

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JULY 15, 2016

Job Cuts at the Met Might Exceed 100 After A Wave of Layoffs

After a hiring freeze and a round of voluntary buyouts, the Metropolitan Museum of Art is looking to cut more costs by trimming down its core staff by at least fifty positions, Robin Pogrebin of the *New York Times* reports. Fifty employees have already taken buyouts since the museum announced that it had a \$10 million deficit, which the Met's president said could quickly inflate to \$40 million if it did not start to scale back.



"There is no letting up on the quality and the commitment we have to excellence—nothing we're doing will be discernible or visible to the public," Daniel H. Weiss, the Met's president and chief operating officer, said. "We're planning to streamline our budgets but not to diminish our mission."

Curatorial and conservation jobs may have to be reduced by 5 percent, and the administrative staff, which includes the marketing, human resources, and digital departments might be cut by 15 or 20 percent. The number of annual exhibitions will also be slimmed from fifty-five to around forty. The museum has already postponed an expansive show on Versailles.

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JULY 15, 2016

NYPD Monitors Gallery After It Received Threats for Displaying Flag Protesting Police Brutality

According to Angelica Rogers of the *New York Times*, Jack Shainman Gallery was put under special alert by the NYPD after it received

numerous threats for displaying artist Dread Scott's black-and-white flag that reads: "A Man Was Lynched by Police Yesterday."

The flag, which was raised outside of the Manhattan gallery's building, is a historic nod to a similar flag that the NAACP flew outside its headquarters in 1936 after A.L. McCamy was lynched in Dalton, Georgia. Scott recreated the flag after Walter L. Scott was murdered in North Charleston last year and tweaked the phrasing by adding the words "by police."

The artist said that he wanted people to be aware of the similarities between the recent incidents of police brutality and "lynch mob terror." He and the gallery began receiving threats after Fox News published an article on July 11, which stated that the gallery was standing by a work that "accuses police of lynching African Americans" in the wake of the murder of five officers by a sniper in Dallas.

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JULY 15, 2016

Museum of Arts and Design Announces New Board Leaders and Trustees

The Museum of Arts and Design has announced several recent appointments, including a change in leadership. Michele Cohen will succeed Lewis Kruger as chair. Ann Kaplan was elected secretary and Joan Hornig and Barbara Waldman will join the board as new trustees.

"MAD will be celebrating its sixtieth anniversary this fall, and I welcome the opportunity to lead the board into the next chapter of the museum's history," Cohen said. "We are extremely grateful for Lewis Kruger's more than twenty-five years on the board and the past seven as chair. He led us through a period of transition for the museum and the completion of our capital drive."

Cohen has worked at Cohen & Steers, a global investment managing firm, for eighteen years. She joined the museum's board in 2008. She also served on the institution's collections, development, education, and executive committees. In 2014, she was elected board secretary, and in 2015 she was appointed vice chair. As chair of the Loot: MAD about Jewelry, an annual artist-made jewelry exhibition and sale, she raised \$2.5 million.

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