

Governors Island Art Fair to Celebrate 10th Anniversary in September 2017

GIAF to be Presented Across Colonels Row and For First Time Liggett Hall, With Installations by More than 100 New and Returning Artists

Opening to Public Labor Day Weekend

New York—August 17, 2017—On September 2, 4heads will open the 10th edition of the Governors Island Art Fair (GIAF), featuring work by 100 new and returning artists presented in the historic homes on Colonels Row and for the first time in the ground floor spaces of Liggett Hall. When 4heads launched GIAF in 2008, the artist-run nonprofit was among the first cultural organizations to recognize the tremendous potential of Governors Island as a must-go cultural destination. Over the last ten years, as interest in and the redevelopment of Governors Island has grown, 4heads has remained committed to activating the diversity of buildings and sites across the Island, providing at once a dynamic presentation platform for today's working artists and bringing attention to the historic significance of the structures the fair occupies. Today 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 October 1.

The first iteration of GIAF was presented in Building 114, a former nurses' residence erected in 1934, and included 52 artists, working predominantly in two-dimensional media. With each year, GIAF has explored new ways of engaging with the architectural environments available on Governors Island and expanded to encompass artists working across painting, photography, sculpture, video, sound, and mixed-media installation. For the 2017 edition, GIAF will feature a wide range of artists from across the U.S., including from Baltimore, Chicago, Cincinnati, Columbus, New York City, and locations in California, Georgia, Maine, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Virginia, among others, as well as international artists from Beijing, Helsinki, Seoul, Tel Aviv, Toronto, Warsaw, and locations in Ecuador, Ethiopia, Germany, and Lithuania. GIAF will occupy spaces in Colonels Row and Liggett Hall--located directly across from Colonels Row--as well as a range of outdoor locations between the two sites.

“As Governors Island Art Fair has grown and evolved over the last ten years, so has our commitment to artists, both those new and returning to our fair community. While the fair is well known for presenting new artists each year, 4heads is equally dedicated to nurturing artists as they develop their practices and experiment with new creative terrain. We are incredibly proud of the selection of artists for 2017, which includes new and dynamic voices as well as returning fair favorites, presenting new work and approaches. Together, they capture an exciting and compelling view of the energy and innovation that pervades the contemporary art scene, in particular among those artists that operate outside the established gallery system,” said Antony Zito, 4heads co-founder. “We continue to be grateful to the Trust for Governors Island for their continuing partnership and collaboration.”

The opening of GIAF also marks the first time since 2010 that Liggett Hall will be used for artist interventions, and the first time that artists will occupy multiple exterior and interior spaces in the building. Liggett Hall is a former military barracks, training center, and administrative building designed

by McKim, Mead and White architects in 1928 and completed in 1930. The Georgian Revival style building is distinguished by a monumental three-story archway that leads into an interior courtyard, and was developed as part of a broader masterplan for the Island. At the time of its completion, it was the largest structure on Governors Island, housing up to 1,375 men, and was the first to be built on the landfill completed in 1912. Over the course of its history, Liggett Hall has undergone several renovations, as its owners and functions have changed. Measuring more than 1,000 feet across the front, Liggett Hall bisects the Island and creates a connection between the Island's Historic District and the new Park and Public Space.

“We have been looking at and thinking about Liggett Hall for a long time. Its close relationship to Colonels Row has always felt like an invitation to create a dialogue between the two sites. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to explore that dynamic in our 10th anniversary year and to activate the space between with art and people, creating a sense of connection and community,” said Nicole Laemmle, 4heads co-founder. “At the same time, it’s a structure that people actively recognize on the Island and use as an orientation marker. Bringing more active attention to it and its history is an exciting proposition, and one we hope will also change how people see and consider it.”

“Governors Island piques people’s interests and curiosity. There is an impulse to peek through windows and attempt to open the doors of the historic buildings to get an inkling of their history, and also their decay,” said Jack Robinson, 4heads co-founder. “With Liggett Hall, we are looking forward to playing on that instinct by creating a series of different viewing experiences. In some instances, viewers will only be able to access installations by peering through windows and doorways, while in others visitors will have the opportunity to enter Liggett Hall for the first time. It’s really the perfect environment for video, sound, and mixed-media installations.”

The 100 featured artists 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 either or both GIAF and Portal art fair. Returning artists make up an important aspect of the 4heads mission, which is focused on both providing presentation opportunities for artists and supporting artists through the ongoing development and evolution of their careers. 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:

- Cincinnati-based artist **Alice Pixley Young**, whose multifaceted installations explore the relationships between physical and perceived environments and the psychological experience of those spaces. Using a wide array of media, including paper, ash, salt, glass, mirrors, roofing felt, and projected video and light, the artist references existing places while creating windows into an alternate realms.
- Beijing-based artist **Zhiyuan Yang**, whose staged photographs and videos challenge the normative definitions of gender, ethnicity, and identity. Her project, *A Family Tree*, examines how China’s patriarchal tradition and one child policy produced adverse social consequences, in particular as they collided with feminist politics.

- New York-based artist **Dareece Walker**, whose large-scale paintings and drawings explore the artist's identity as a Black American male. His series, *Black is the Giant*, examines both the devaluation of Black men in today's America and power that can result when a large group of individuals come together in shared cause and vision.
- New York-based artists **Joshua Starcher** and **Melissa Estro**, whose collaborative project examines the relationship between the housing crisis that gripped the nation in 2008 and a 2007 Trump University seminar titled, *Real Estate Goldmine: How to Get Rich Investing in Pre-Foreclosures*. The installation will recreate a domestic interior, which upon closer inspection will reveal the causes and predatory behaviors that led to the collapse of the housing market.
- Connecticut-based artist **Margaret Roleke**, who creates sculptures with found and everyday objects. These abstract assemblages engage viewers first in an exploration of line and color, but upon fuller inspection reveal commentary on topics like consumerism, sensationalism, war, and religion. For GIAF, Roleke will produce a work made of spent shotgun shells as a means of fostering a dialogue on gun violence and policy.
- Pennsylvania-based artist **Trevor King**, whose practice incorporates sculpture, video, and installation. King's work is grounded in the post-industrial transformations of his home region of Western Pennsylvania, and focuses on capturing these changes through the lenses of identity, labor, masculinity, and urban and rural landscapes. For GIAF, King will create a site-specific installation that simulates a barren, overexposed landscape, using heating lamps and clay, sand, and other debris.
- Helsinki-based artist **Eeva Honkanen**, whose drawings deal with the internal conflicts, anxieties, and emotions that are inherent to all human beings. In particular, her work focuses on the desire for and experience of freedom, the destabilization and overcoming of fears, and the impact of small decisions and events on life and the future. Her work is further influenced by her religious upbringing, and her journey to break from those traditions.
- Maine-based artist **Susan Camp**, whose practice explores the ongoing fusion of natural and manmade environments, especially as it relates to food production and farming. For GIAF, Camp will present a selection of her mutated gourds, which she creates by constraining the squash in molds and found objects. The resultant gourds carry both the marks of individual mutation and forced and mass production, fostering a dialogue on human efforts to control nature and the outcomes of those actions.
- Three students from the **School of Visual Arts**, including **Weiheng Qian**, **Biwei Niu**, and **Grace Sheu**. Featured in GIAF independently, all three artists are creating immersive installations with the use of video, 3D animation, projection, and other digital tools.

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 Laemmle, 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 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 2 - October 1, 2017.

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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