

DISJECTA ANNOUNCES

SELECTED ARTISTS

PORTLAND2016: A BIENNIAL OF CONTEMPORARY ART

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: BRYAN SUERETH (503) 913-6884 / bryan@disjecta.org



PORTLAND, Ore. – Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2016. Thirty-four artists and artist teams have been selected by curator Michelle Grabner for Disjecta Contemporary Art Center’s Portland2016 Biennial exhibition.

Michelle Grabner, co-curator of the 2014 Whitney Biennial, reviewed over 400 artist submissions and conducted more than 100 studio visits across the state—perhaps the most extensive outreach to Oregon contemporary artists to date—prior to finalizing her choices. As a result, Portland2016 includes 13 artists from outside the Portland metro area, more than all previous biennials combined.

“From La Grande to Ashland, I was looking for work that addressed global realities as much as it embraced radical regionalism. By listening attentively to the language that frames artists’ imaginations while witnessing the space of making, my 105 studio visits yielded a treasure of exhilarating work. It was a privilege to transverse the State of Oregon and to meet with artists and arts professionals who are enthusiastically committed to fostering a spirited culture in the region,” Portland2016 curator Michelle Grabner says.

The thirty-four artists selected range from emerging to mid-career and work in a variety of media from installation, film/video, painting, craft and social-based practices, to site-specific works that challenge the viewer’s contemplation of space. They include:

Avantika Bawa, Portland

Carla Bengston, Eugene

David Bithell, Ashland

Pat Boas, Portland

Mike Bray, Springfield

Bruce Burris, Corvallis

Julia Calabrese & Emily Bernstein, Portland

Cherry / Lucic, Portland

David Eckard, Portland

Tannaz Farsi, Eugene

Jack Featherly, Beaverton

Howard Fonda, Portland

Julie Green, Corvallis

Midori Hirose, Portland

Jessica Jackson Hutchins, Portland

Colin Kippen, Portland

Anya Kivarkis, Eugene

Michael Lazarus, Portland

Charlene Liu, Eugene

Giles Lyon, Portland

Ellen McFadden, Portland

Whitney Minthorn, Pendleton

Donald Morgan, Eugene
Brenna Murphy, Portland
Julia Oldham, Eugene
Rebecca Peel, Portland
Lisa Radon, Portland
Jon Raymond, Portland

Jack Ryan & Chi Wang, Eugene
Heidi Schwegler, Portland
Rick Silva, Eugene
Storm Tharp, Portland
Weird Fiction, Portland
Ryan Woodring, Portland

“Michelle is an artist advocate. She places preeminent value on the studio practice—and conversations in, and about, the studio inform her curatorial interest,” says Disjecta Director Bryan Suereth. “Portland2016 will undoubtedly reflect the candid and engaging process Michelle favors.”

Portland2016 is the fourth Biennial presented by Disjecta, and, for the first time, the exhibition will extend beyond Portland, activating locations around the state and making the exhibition available to a larger and more diverse audience. Confirmed sites are in Pendleton, La Grande, the Umatilla Reservation, Bend, Madras, McMinnville, Astoria, Roseburg, and Ashland, with more venues planned.

In addition to those artists selected for the Biennial, the 71 artists who also received a studio visit have been invited to participate in *Salon: Portland2016 Biennial, The Studio Visits*, a curatorial index that celebrates the broad spectrum of art-making in Oregon and illuminates the research and selection process of the curator.

Portland2016 is supported by the Oregon Cultural Trust, the Andy Warhol Foundation, the Robert Lehman Foundation, as well as our partnering venues.

ABOUT MICHELLE GRABNER

Michelle Grabner joined the faculty of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1996, and became Chair of its prestigious Painting and Drawing department in the fall of 2009. From 2012-2014, she was a senior critic at Yale University in the Department of Painting and Printmaking. Her writing has been published in *Artforum*, *Modern Painters*, *Frieze*, *Art Press*, and *Art-Agenda*, among others. As a community-maker, Grabner runs *The Suburban* and *The Poor Farm* with her husband, artist Brad Killam. These exhibition spaces in Little Wolf, Wisconsin and Oak Park, Illinois embody new models for facilitating and presenting artists' projects.

She was co-curator, along with Anthony Elms and Stuart Comer, of the 2014 Whitney Biennial at the Whitney Museum of American Art. Grabner holds an MA in Art History and a BFA in Painting and Drawing from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, and an MFA in Art Theory and Practice from Northwestern University.

As a curator, Grabner has been increasingly motivated by localism and the extant narratives therein-- how it indicates or defies provincialism, how it relates to or helps shape the broader contemporary scene, and how “decentralization” is changing the landscape of art-making nationally.

Incorporating writing, curating and teaching with a studio practice grounded in process and productivity, she has created a multi-faceted and dynamic career. As an artist, she works in variety of mediums including drawing, painting, video and sculpture. Solo exhibitions of her work have also been held at INOVA, The University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee; Ulrich Museum, Wichita; and University Galleries, Illinois State University.

ABOUT THE PORTLAND BIENNIAL

A major survey of work by artists who are defining and advancing contemporary art practices, Portland2016 will include exhibitions, events and performances in multiple locations from **July 9 through September 18, 2016**. Disjecta’s 6,000-square-foot exhibition space in north Portland’s diverse Kenton neighborhood will be the central venue for Portland2016. And for the first time, Portland2016 will include venues across Oregon in addition to satellite locations in all five “quadrants” of Portland. A full list of partner locations and the artists exhibiting at each will be released in April.

Portland2016 continues the tradition of the Oregon Biennial, begun by the Portland Art Museum in 1949. With the end of the Museum’s Biennial in 2006, Oregon artists lost a longstanding platform for career advancement. In 2010, Disjecta reintroduced the Biennial, curated by then-Linfield College Gallery Director Cris Moss. The exhibition spanned nine venues throughout Portland and included 19 Oregon artists. Portland2012 presented the work of 24 artists at five venues and was curated by Prudence F. Roberts, former curator of American Art at the Portland Art Museum. Portland2014 was curated by Amanda Hunt, Associate Curator at the Studio Museum in Harlem, and included 15 artists.

For Biennial artists, Portland2016 offers opportunities for critical response from media and peers, and exposure to new and national audiences and patrons. This use of multiple venues will allow artists the space and flexibility to develop work specifically for this opportunity. A catalog with essays by visiting and local writers will support the exhibition.

ABOUT DISJECTA

Disjecta Contemporary Art Center builds ambitious programs that promote artists and engage communities.

These programs present forward-thinking work from visual and performing artists, provide crucial resources so that artists can realize their best work, and fuel collaborations between artists, curators, and viewers. Disjecta exacts equal rigor from local and national artists, while keenly recognizing and supporting the talent of the region.

###