



## **DISJECTA ANNOUNCES THIRTY PORTLAND2016 BIENNIAL EVENTS ACROSS OREGON**

**For Immediate Release**

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**PORTLAND, Oregon—June 22, 2016.** Disjecta Contemporary Art Center's groundbreaking Portland2016 Biennial announces a complete calendar of community receptions at each of the 25 venues participating across the state. Led by the curatorial vision of Michelle Grabner, Portland2016 features 34 artists selected to exhibit in 13 communities throughout Oregon, making it the most comprehensive survey of contemporary art in the history of the state. Presenting ten weeks of events and concurrent exhibitions, *Portland2016: A Biennial of Contemporary Art* opens on July 9 and runs until September 18.

"Portland2016 is a special moment for the art community," says Disjecta Director Bryan Suereth. "A curator of Michelle Grabner's caliber means this Biennial will attract national and international audiences to Oregon artists, attention that they well deserve. The Biennial has also expanded its geographical reach to engage audiences in rural communities, and we are excited to partner with institutions across the state."

The Biennial will be hosted in some of Oregon's most respected arts organizations, including Ashland's The Schneider Museum of Art, Crow's Shadow Institute of the Arts on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and White Box at the University of Oregon in Portland, as well as in some of Oregon's unique historical buildings, including the Rivoli Theatre in Pendleton, the Liberty Theatre in La Grande, and Astoria's Astor Hotel. "Dotting the state's many geographical regions, the Portland2016 Biennial venues offer artists the chance to consider new contexts and new audiences," Biennial curator Michelle Grabner says. "The exhibition presents exciting opportunities to experience Portland-based artists engaging sites in La Grande, Pendleton, Madras, and The Dalles, and likewise to see work by artists from Pendleton and Corvallis in Portland exhibitions. It has been thrilling to curate an exhibition that features thirty-four extraordinary Oregon artists while also showcasing thirteen unique Oregon communities."

Grabner's curatorial vision for Portland2016 investigates regionalism, exploring the ways in which artists' works reflect a particular geography or culture while also interrogating the ways in which local dynamics impact the global art world in an era of decentralization. Artists Avantika Bawa, Jessica Jackson Hutchins, Storm Tharp, Julie Green, and many others are creating new works inspired both by place and by Grabner's exploration of off-center art practices, a conversation that she initiated as co-curator of the



2014 Whitney Biennial in New York. The artists in Portland2016, while not necessarily linked by medium, visual style, or career levels, all share an interest in creating work informed by a theoretical and geographical distance from larger commercial art centers.

The Biennial's ten-week-long presence in diverse communities statewide is a direct reflection of Grabner's interest in regional arts practices, and Portland2016's staggered schedule of statewide community receptions and events provide a fascinating opportunity for artists, art lovers, tourists, and locals alike to explore the voices, styles, cultures, and geographies driving Oregon's contemporary arts scene.

Disjecta is proud to announce a full calendar of 30 community receptions and other events below. Each venue's reception will be attended by Biennial artists, Disjecta and, when possible, the curator. All of the Portland2016 Biennial venues will be open to the public beginning July 9, except the Christian Science Reading Room, which opens July 16. Most venues have at least the following hours: Wed-Sat from noon-5 pm, though some venues vary (please check the venues page on [portlandbiennial.org](http://portlandbiennial.org) to verify specific gallery hours). A map of Biennial sites is available at <http://bit.ly/1RwI0Mo>.

### **Portland2016 Community Receptions & Other Biennial Events**

**July 8: Salem** | Bush Barn Art Center, 600 Mission Street SE, 5:30-7:30pm

#### **July 9: Portland**

Project Grow, 2156 North Williams, 12-3pm

Cherry & Lucic, 4077 NE 7th Ave, 1-5pm

c3:initiative, 7326 N. Chicago Ave, 2-6pm

Disjecta, 8371 N Interstate Ave, 6-10pm

#### **July 10: Portland**

Muscle Beach, 3104 SE 51st Ave, 3-5pm

White Box at the University of Oregon in Portland, 24 NW 1st Ave, 5-7pm

**July 14: Portland** | Cooley Gallery Case Works Program, Reed College Library, 3203 SE Woodstock Blvd, 3-5pm

**July 14: Roseburg** | The Art Gallery at Umpqua Community College, Whipple Fine Arts Building, 1140 Umpqua College Road, 5-7pm

**July 15: Ashland** | The Schneider Museum of Art, 1250 Siskiyou Blvd, 5-7pm

**July 16: Madras** | Art Adventure Gallery, 185 SE 5th Street, 2-4pm

**July 16: Bend** | The Gallery at Pinckney Center, Central Oregon Community College, 2600 NW College Way, 5-7pm

#### **July 22: La Grande**

Arts Center East, 1006 Penn Avenue, 6-8pm

Liberty Theatre, 1008 Adams Ave, 6-10pm



**July 23: Pendleton & Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation**

Crow's Shadow Institute of the Arts, 48004 St Andrews Rd, 5-7pm

Rivoli Theatre, 351 S. Main Street, 6-10pm

Christian Science Reading Room, 13 SW Byers Ave, 6-10pm

**July 23: Ashland** | Free Family Day at Schneider Museum, 10am-1pm

**July 24: The Dalles** | Morin Print Building, 308 Washington St, 3-7 pm

**July 30: Portland** | Cherry & Lucic presents "Poor Leatherette" by Merlin Carpenter, 4077 NE 7th Ave, 6:30-10:00pm

**August 8: Portland** | c3:initiative panel on Art + Activism, in partnership with Prequel Artist Incubator, 7-9pm

**August 13: Clatskanie** | Hazen Hardware, 136 N Nehalem, 1-4 pm

**August 13: Astoria**

Royal Nebeker Art Gallery, Clatsop Community College, 1651 Lexington Avenue, 5-8 pm

Astor Hotel, 1423 Commercial St, 6-9pm

**August 13: Ashland** | Free Family Day at Schneider Museum, 10am-1pm

**August 19: Portland** | Portland State University Broadway Lobby Gallery, 1620 SW Park Ave, 5-7pm

**September 7: Portland** | Oregon College of Art and Craft, 8245 SW Barnes Rd, Artist Talk, 3:30-4:30 (tbc), reception 5-8pm

**September 10: McMinnville** | Linfield College Gallery, 900 SE Baker St, 1-5pm.

**September 10: Portland** | c3:initiative, Carla Bengtson Performance, afternoon (tbc)

**September 18: Portland** | Closing Party, Disjecta, 7 pm 'til late

**BIENNIAL SUPPORTERS**

Portland2016 is supported by The Ford Family Foundation, the Andy Warhol Foundation, Oregon Cultural Trust, the Robert Lehman Foundation, The Standard, Travel Oregon, and Portland2016's partner venues.

We are also grateful to the Disjecta Consilario, a group of esteemed critics, artists, educators, gallerists, and other art world professionals who came together across spring 2015 as the Portland2016 Community Committee to select Michelle Grabner as Portland2016 curator through thoughtful discussions and democratic voting. Disjecta Consilario are: Meagan Atiyeh, Jonathan Bucci, Ben Buswell, Karl Davis, Modou Dieng, Jiseon Lee Isbara, Lisa Jarrett, Jessica Breedlove Latham, Victor Maldonado, Cris Moss, Wendy Red Star, Christopher Russell, Peter Simensky, Abigail Susik, & Libby Werbel.



### **ABOUT MICHELLE GRABNER**

Uniting writing, curating, and teaching with a studio practice grounded in process and productivity, Michelle Grabner has created a multi-faceted and dynamic career. She is founder and co-director, along with her husband Brad Killam, of three artist spaces that embody new models for facilitating and presenting artists' projects: The Suburban, in both Riverwest and Walker's Point, WI; and The Poor Farm, a year-long exhibition space at the former Waupaca County Poor Farm in Little Wolf, WI. In 2014 Grabner was one of three curators for the prestigious Whitney Biennial. 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.

Over four dozen solo exhibitions of her work have been organized by galleries and institutions including the Indianapolis Museum of Art; Museum of Contemporary Art, Cleveland; INOVA, The University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee; Ulrich Museum, Wichita, KS; and University Galleries, Illinois State University.

### **ABOUT THE PORTLAND2016**

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. The use of multiple venues will allow artists the space and flexibility to develop work specifically for this opportunity. A Reader and 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. More information on Portland2016 is available at <http://www.disjecta.org/biennial-2016/> and at [www.portlandbiennial.org](http://www.portlandbiennial.org).

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