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## The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is pleased to announce it is a recipient of an NEA grant

***Grant part of NEA announcement of 863 grants and \$22.543 million in funding nationwide***

HOUSTON, TX (November 22, 2011)—The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is pleased to be a recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) grant to support the group exhibition *Radical Presence: Black Performance in Contemporary Art*, which will be on view at CAMH in fall 2012. NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman today announced that the agency will award 863 grants to organizations and individual writers across the country, including CAMH. The 863 grant awards total \$22.543 million, encompass 15 artistic disciplines and fields, and support projects in 47 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Organized by CAMH Senior Curator Valerie Cassel Oliver, *Radical Presence: Black Performance in Contemporary Art* examines black performance art through a unique and historically unexamined lens—from a visual arts perspective. A departure from the traditional canon and previous scholarship, which frames black performance art from the vantage point of either theater or dance, *Radical Presence* combs through three generations of groundbreaking performance art practices and provides audiences with a critical understanding of the significance and persistence of these practices. Moreover, *Radical Presence* provides a context for black performance, its historical predecessors, and long trajectory beginning in the second half of the 1900s and moving through to the 21st century.

“Art Works is the guiding principle at the NEA,” said agency Chairman Rocco Landesman. “And I’m pleased to see that principle represented through the 823 Art Works-funded projects included in this announcement. These projects demonstrate the imaginative and innovative capacities of artists and arts organizations to enhance the quality of life in their communities.”

Says CAMH Director Bill Arning, “We are proud to organize this exhibition under NEA auspices. We challenge ourselves to bring art to Houston that will acquaint our many diverse communities to underexposed and profound art works, much of which they have likely never seen before. We are grateful to the NEA for their help in doing this.”

In March 2011, the NEA received 1,686 eligible applications for Art Works requesting more than \$84 million in funding. The resulting funding rate of 49 percent of eligible applications reflects both the significant demand for support and the ongoing vitality of the not-for-profit arts community despite current financial challenges. Art Works grants are awarded based on the applications received by the NEA and how those applications are assessed by the review panels.

For a **complete listing of projects** recommended for Art Works grant support, please visit the NEA website at [arts.gov](http://arts.gov).

**CAMH**



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### **GENERAL SUPPORT**

Funding for the Museum's operations through the Fund for the Future is made possible by generous grants from Chinhui Juhn and Eddie Allen, Anonymous, Elizabeth Howard Crowell, Barbara and Michael Gamson, Brenda and William Goldberg, Mr. and Mrs. I.H. Kempner III, Leticia Loya and Fayez Sarofim.

CAMH's operations and programs are made possible through the generosity of the Museum's trustees, patrons, members, and donors. CAMH receives partial operating support from the Houston Endowment, the City of Houston through the Houston Museum District Association, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Texas Commission on the Arts, and The Wortham Foundation, Inc.

United is the official airline of the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston.

### **CAMH MISSION**

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is an idea and a place shaped by the present moment. The Museum exemplifies the dynamic relationship between contemporary art and contemporary society through its exhibitions, public and educational programs, and publications. The CAMH provides the physical and intellectual framework essential to the presentation, interpretation, and advancement of contemporary art; it is a vibrant forum for artists and all audiences, and for critical, scholarly, and public discourse.

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### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is located at 5216 Montrose Boulevard, at the corner of Montrose and Bissonnet, in the heart of Houston's Museum District. Hours are Wednesday 11AM-7PM, Thursday 11AM-9PM, Friday 11AM-7PM, Saturday and Sunday 11AM-6PM. Admission is always free. For more information, visit [www.camh.org](http://www.camh.org) or call 713 284 8250.