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The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston and the MIT List Visual Arts Center receive major award from AICA/USA for their co-organized 2011 exhibition *Stan VanDerBeek: The Culture Intercom*

Houston, TX (March 16, 2012) —The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston and the MIT List Visual Arts Center have received the prestigious award of “Best Show Involving Digital Media, Video, Film, or Performance” from the United States section of the International Art Critics Association (AICA/USA) for their co-organized 2011 exhibition *Stan VanDerBeek: The Culture Intercom*. An awards ceremony will take place at The Asia Society in New York, April 2, 2012. *Stan VanDerBeek: The Culture Intercom* was curated by Bill Arning, Director, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, and João Ribas, Curator, MIT List Visual Arts Center.

Stan VanDerBeek: The Culture Intercom is the first museum survey of the work of media art pioneer Stan VanDerBeek (1927-1984). Surveying the artist’s remarkable body of work in collage, experimental film, performance, participatory, and computer-generated art over several decades, *Stan VanDerBeek: The Culture Intercom* highlights the artist’s pivotal contributions to today’s media-based artistic practices. The exhibition featured dozens of early paintings and collages, an exhaustive selection of his pioneering animations and films, re-creations of immersive projection and “expanded cinema” environments, documentation of site-specific and telecommunications projects, and material related to his performance and durational work.

“VanDerBeek was a true visionary, decades ahead of his time. It has been a great pleasure for me to work with João Ribas and VanDerBeek’s talented artist offspring, Johannes and Sara VanDerBeek, in putting his work back into contemporary dialogue. And I am profoundly grateful to AICA for recognizing his achievements,” says Arning.

Stan VanDerBeek: The Culture Intercom was on view at MIT List Visual Arts Center February 4 – April 3, 2011, and at Contemporary Arts Museum Houston May 14 – July 10, 2011. The exhibition was accompanied by a monograph publication providing an overview of VanDerBeek’s influence on contemporary media practices. The catalogue, which was jointly published by MIT and CAMH, includes



Stan VanDerBeek, *Movie Mural*, 1968/2011. Approximate restaging of VanDerBeek’s multimedia installation *Movie Mural* (1968) at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (2011). Dimensions variable. Courtesy The Estate of Stan VanDerBeek. Photo: Rick Gardner

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essays by the exhibition's co-curators, and VanDerBeek scholars Mark Bartlett, Jacob Proctor, Gloria Sutton, and Michael Zryd.

In addition, *The Deconstructive Impulse: Women Artists Reconfigure the Signs of Power, 1973-1991* has received the award for "Best Thematic Museum Show Nationally." The exhibition, which was organized by Neuberger Museum of Art, is on view now at CAMH through April 15.

The annual AICA Awards honor artists, curators, and institutions for excellence in art exhibitions. The winners are selected by the 400 critics and other art experts who make up the association's membership. For a complete list of AICA Award winners, go to www.aicausa.org.

EXHIBITION SUPPORT FOR STAN VANDERBEEK: THE CULTURE INTERCOM

Stan VanDerBeek: The Culture Intercom has been organized by Bill Arning, Director, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, and João Ribas, Curator, MIT List Visual Arts Center, with special thanks to the Estate of Stan VanDerBeek and London-based independent scholar Mark Bartlett. The exhibition has been made possible by the generous support of the ART MENTOR FOUNDATION LUCERNE and The National Endowment for the Arts, a Federal agency, along with the Council for the Arts at MIT, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, Union Pacific Foundation and Martin E. Zimmerman.

Exhibitions in the Brown Foundation Gallery at CAMH have been made possible by the patrons, benefactors and donors to the Museum's Major Exhibition Fund: Major Patron - Chinhui Juhn and Eddie Allen, Fayez Sarofim, and Michael Zilkha. Patrons - Louise D. Jamail, Mr. and Mrs. I. H. Kempner III, Ms. Louisa Stude Sarofim, and Leigh and Reggie Smith. Benefactors - Baker Botts L.L.P. / Anne and David Kirkland, George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation, Jackson Hicks / Jackson and Company, Marley Lott, Poppi Massey, Beverly and Howard Robinson, Andrew Schirrmeister, Susan Vaughan Foundation, Inc., and Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Wilson. Donors - A Fare Extraordinaire, Anonymous, Anonymous, Bergner and Johnson Design, The Brown Foundation, Inc., Jereann Chaney, Susie and Sanford Criner, Elizabeth Howard Crowell, Sara Dodd-Spickelmier and Keith Spickelmier, Ruth Dreessen and Thomas Van Laan, Marita and J.B. Fairbanks, Jo and Jim Furr, Barbara and Michael Gamson, Brenda and William Goldberg / Bernstein Global Wealth Management, King & Spalding L.L.P., KPMG, LLP, Judy and Scott Nyquist, David I. Saperstein, Scurlock Foundation, and Karen and Harry Susman.

ABOUT AICA/USA

AICA/USA is the United States section of the International Association of Art Critics (AICA), founded in 1948/1949 in Paris. Each year AICA/USA invites its over 400 members to nominate and vote for the outstanding exhibitions of the previous year. AICA/USA, the nation's largest art critics organization, is the only group to formally recognize excellence in this cultural arena, and its Best Show awards are the art-world equivalent to those given by the New York Film Critics Circle or the Drama Desk.

ABOUT CAMH

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is a leading destination to experience innovative art. CAMH actively encourages public engagement with its exhibitions through its educational programs, publications, and online presence.

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