

Press Release

Contemporary Arts Museum Houston to Receive \$55,000 Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts



Photo by Rick Gardner.

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HOUSTON, TX (February 12, 2018)— National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu has approved more than \$25 million in grants as part of the NEA's first major funding announcement for fiscal year 2018. Included in this announcement is an Art Works grant of \$55,000 to the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (CAMH) for an upcoming exhibition *Walls Turned Sideways: Artists Confront the American Justice System*. As the title suggests, *Walls Turned Sideways* centers around artists addressing the challenging subject of the American justice system. The Art Works category is the NEA's largest funding category and supports projects that focus on the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and/or the strengthening of communities through the arts.

"It is energizing to see the impact that the arts are making throughout the United States. These NEA-supported projects, such as this one to CAMH, are good examples of how

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the arts build stronger and more vibrant communities, improve well-being, prepare our children to succeed, and increase the quality of our lives,” said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. “At the National Endowment for the Arts, we believe that all people should have access to the joy, opportunities, and connections the arts bring.”

“As a nonprofit institution, government support such as this is critical to CAMH’s mission,” said CAMH Director Bill Arning. “Even more, receiving national recognition for a show dealing explicitly with a major social issue through NEA’s Art Works grant is a validation of the urgency of the exhibitions and programming that CAMH continues to provide the communities we serve.”

Walls Turned Sideways: Artists Confront the American Justice System includes artists from across the United States who, over the past forty years, have addressed the American criminal justice system and prison-industrial complex to effect lasting change. Representing the full range of contemporary art production made in the studio and the social realm, the exhibition includes artworks that take issues of social justice as a subject for images and objects, position the prison and court systems as structures for dismantling through institutional critique, and aim to change legislature as part of a social practice.

Walls Turned Sideways: Artists Confront the American Justice System is organized for CAMH by Guest Curator Risa Puleo, and is on view August 17, 2018–January 6, 2019. Puleo is an independent curator and critic, and was the first curatorial resident at Bemis Center for Contemporary Art in Omaha, Nebraska. She has also held positions at the Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin, and Artadia: The Fund for Art and Dialogue, New York, New York.

For more information on projects included in the NEA grant announcement, visit arts.gov/news.

General Support

Support for CAMH is generously provided by the Museum’s Board of Trustees and their families: Allison and David Ayers, Candace Baggett and Ron Restrepo, Vera and Andy Baker, James M. Bell, Jr., Jereann Chaney, Estela and David A. Cockrell, Margaret Vaughan Cox and Jonathan Cox, Ruth Dreessen and Tom Van Laan, Barbara and Michael Gamson, Dan and Eleanor Gilbane, Blakely and Trey Griggs, Melissa and Albert J. Grobmyer IV, Catherine Baen Hennessy and Matt Hennessy, Leslie and Mark Hull, Louise Jamail, Dillon Kyle and Sam Lasseter, Erica and Benjy Levit, Lucinda and Javier Loya, Catherine and George Masterson, Libbie Masterson, Greg McCord, Mac and Karen McManus, Jack and Anne Moriniere, Cabrina and Steven Owsley, Howard and Beverly Robinson, Andrew and Robin Schirmeister, Nicholas and Kelly Silvers, David P. and Marion Young, and Elizabeth and Barry Young.

Additional funding for CAMH’s exhibitions, programming, and operations is provided by its dedicated patrons and donors: A Fare Extraordinaire, Chinhui Juhn and Eddie Allen, Art Market Productions, Mary and Marcel Barone, Bergner and Johnson Design, City of Houston through the Houston Museum District Association, George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation, Houston Endowment, Jackson and Company, James M. Collins Foundation, Kavi Gupta Gallery, Mr. and

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Mrs. I.H. Kempner III, KPMG, LLP, Lehmann Maupin, Leticia Loya, M.D. Anderson Foundation, Mary Kathryn Lynch Kurtz Charitable Lead Trust, Elisabeth McCabe, Mid-America Arts Alliance, Faye Sarofim, Ms. Louisa Stude Sarofim, Leigh and Reggie Smith, Susan Vaughan Foundation, Targa Resources, Inc., Union Pacific Foundation, The Wortham Foundation, Inc., and Michael Zilkha.

CAMH's operations are made possible in part by awards from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

CAMH also thanks its artist benefactors for their support, including Chris Beckman, Michael Bise, Bruce High Quality Foundation, Mel Chin, Julia Dault, James Drake, Mark Flood, Jeffrey Gibson, Wayne Gilbert, Roberta Harris, Camille Henrot, Oliver Herring, Joan Jonas, David Kelley, Julian Lorber, Marilyn Minter, Nic Nicosia, McKay Otto, Joyce Pensato, Gavin Perry, Susie Rosmarin, Jacolby Satterwhite, Shinique Smith, John Sparagana, Mary Weatherford, Carrie Mae Weems, Haegue Yang, and Brenna Youngblood.

United is the Official Airline of the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston.

CAMH Mission

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. Always fresh, always free.

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 Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 10AM–7PM, Thursday 10AM–9PM, Saturday 10AM–6PM, and Sunday 12PM–6PM.

Admission is always free. For more information, visit CAMH.ORG or call 713.284.8250.