

CONTACT: Sarah Rulfs
sr@contemporary-arts.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FOUNDATION FOR CONTEMPORARY ARTS ANNOUNCES
EMERGENCY GRANTS FOR LOS ANGELES ARTISTS
FUNDED BY THE ROBERT GRAHAM ESTATE**

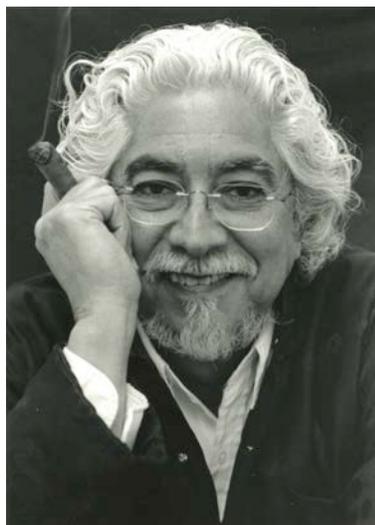
New York, NY, October 31, 2017 – Foundation for Contemporary Arts (FCA) is pleased to announce a new fund established and supported by the Robert Graham Estate to support Emergency Grants for Los Angeles-based artists. Administered by FCA, Emergency Grants is a unique program that provides timely funding directly to performing and visual artists with urgent, work-related needs. The Foundation for Contemporary Arts Robert Graham Emergency Grants for L.A. Artists will celebrate the artist’s love for and iconic involvement in the Los Angeles arts community while supporting the city’s vibrant creative culture.

Emergency Grants are by-application grants awarded on an ongoing basis to emerging artists and collectives throughout the country who are in need of timely, urgent funding. The only program of its kind, Emergency Grants provides quick, grassroots support to artists who have unexpected expenses when projects are close to completion or sudden opportunities to present work to the public. Emergency Grants typically range from \$500 to \$2,500; requests are reviewed monthly by a volunteer panel of established artists.

“FCA’s Emergency Grants program is essential to artists and we are particularly excited to play a role in bringing this significant resource to Los Angeles,” said Steven Graham of the Robert Graham Estate. “As the number of artists in Los Angeles is ever increasing, a grant helping those in need is ever more essential. Having spent most of his life and career in L.A., and with strong ties to many of the city’s public and private cultural organizations and institutions, Robert Graham is perfectly suited as a supporter and ambassador of catalyzing opportunities for Los Angeles artists.”

“FCA has been steadfast in its commitment to funding L.A. artists through Emergency Grants since the program’s establishment in 1993,” said Stacy Tenenbaum Stark, Executive Director of the Foundation for Contemporary Arts. “The Robert Graham Estate’s contribution continues FCA’s ‘artists for artists’ approach and we are thrilled to extend the legacy of an important local artist among new generations.”

About Robert Graham



Robert Graham, 1999.
Photo: Chris Felver. © 2017 Robert
Graham Studio / Artists Rights
Society (ARS) New York

Robert Graham (1938–2008) was born in Mexico City, and moved to California in 1948. After studying art at San Jose State University and the San Francisco Art Institute, and living in London for several years, in 1972 Graham settled into his life-long studio in Venice, California. Graham had an expansive artistic practice ranging from intimately-scaled sculpture to towering public monuments to distinctive architectural design. His first major civic commission came from the Olympic Arts Festival organization in Los Angeles in 1984. Other commissions include: the Monument to Joe Louis in Detroit (1986), the FDR Memorial in Washington, D.C. (1997), the Duke Ellington Memorial in New York City (1997), and the Great Bronze Doors of the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles (2002).

With a commitment to creating positive change in Los Angeles in the aftermath of the 1992 L.A. riots, Graham, as an artist trustee of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, set up a foundry and workshop where he hired, paid, and trained a group of at-risk youth to cast works to benefit the museum. Known as *MOCA TORSO (1992-1995)*, the project produced more than 3,500 individual pieces and remains one of the most iconic works by the artist.

Graham also exhibited internationally with museums and galleries such as the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, Whitechapel Art Gallery (London), Nicholas Wilder Gallery (Los Angeles), Galerie Neuendorf (Hamburg, Cologne, and Berlin), and Sonnabend Gallery, Robert Miller Gallery, and Gagosian Gallery (New York). Robert Graham's work is in the collections of major institutions including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Dallas Museum of Fine Art, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and The Museum of Modern Art, New York.

robertgrahamartist.com

About the Foundation for Contemporary Arts (FCA)



L.A.-based Emergency Grantee Zeal Harris, installation
view of Emergency Grants-supported *Remedies for Driving
While Black*, at Los Angeles Art Association, 2016.

Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts was established in 1963 by John Cage (1912–1992) and Jasper Johns. At that time, some emerging visual artists were beginning to experience modest financial success, while many of their peers working in dance, music, and theater struggled to find funding to present their work. Cage and Johns decided to organize a benefit exhibition at the Allan Stone Gallery to support their colleagues in the performance arts. Lee Bontecou, Elaine de Kooning, Willem de Kooning, Marcel Duchamp,

Alex Katz, Ellsworth Kelly, Roy Lichtenstein, Marisol, Barnett Newman, Claes Oldenburg, Robert Rauschenberg, James Rosenquist, Frank Stella, Elaine Sturtevant, and Andy Warhol were among the 67 artists who contributed to this landmark show. With proceeds from the exhibition, the Foundation began making grants to individual artists.

Now known as the Foundation for Contemporary Arts (FCA), its mission is to encourage, sponsor, and promote innovative work in the arts created and presented by individuals, groups, and organizations.

FCA's unrestricted, by-nomination grants support pioneering work across the fields of dance, music/sound, performance art/theater, poetry, and the visual arts. Established in 1993, the Grants to Artists program provides recipients with the financial means to engage in whatever artistic endeavors they wish to pursue. Each year, a group of artists and arts professionals are invited by FCA to propose one artist, collective, or performing group whom they believe would benefit from an award. The confidential submissions are then reviewed by an advisory panel comprised of artists, arts professionals, and FCA's Board of Directors and the recipients are selected. FCA also assists artists and collectives who are in need of urgent work-related funding through the Emergency Grants program; requests are reviewed monthly by a volunteer panel of established artists that typically awards grants of between \$500 and \$2,500. More than 2,800 grants awarded to artists and arts organizations—totaling over \$12 million—have provided opportunities for creative exploration and development. To date, nearly 1,000 artists have made these grants possible by contributing paintings, sculptures, drawings, prints, and photographs to the fifteen benefit exhibitions held over the years.

www.foundationforcontemporaryarts.org

###