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## FOUNDATION FOR CONTEMPORARY ARTS ANNOUNCES THE CREATION OF THE ROY LICHTENSTEIN AWARD

**New York, NY, May 23, 2017** – Foundation for Contemporary Arts (FCA) is pleased to announce a \$1 million endowment gift from the Roy Lichtenstein Foundation to establish an annual \$40,000 Roy Lichtenstein Award. Administered through FCA’s distinguished Grants to Artists program, the award will be made each year to an individual artist working and contributing to the creative arts in Lichtenstein’s wide-ranging and investigative spirit. It furthers FCA’s pioneering “artists for artists” model, established in 1963 by FCA’s founders John Cage (1912-1992) and Jasper Johns.

The Roy Lichtenstein Award joins the Merce Cunningham Award, Ellsworth Kelly Award, Robert Rauschenberg Award, and Dorothea Tanning Award as the latest grant named for an artist of FCA’s founding generation and endowed by each artist’s respective foundation within the last five years. FCA also administers the biennial John Cage Award, which was established in 1992 by the Foundation’s Board of Directors in memory of the late composer. The creation of these awards at FCA is a reflection of the organization’s deep roots in the artist community and its active artist leadership.

“Roy was a part of the community of artists from which the Foundation for Contemporary Arts started in the 1960s,” said Dorothy Lichtenstein, President of the Roy Lichtenstein Foundation. “It feels right to have The Roy Lichtenstein Award alongside his friends, John Cage, Merce Cunningham, Ellsworth Kelly, and Robert Rauschenberg, and the other artists who have been associated with FCA over the years.”

“We are delighted that the Roy Lichtenstein Award, as one of our important Lichtenstein Foundation legacies, can be the fourth named award in the Grants to Artists program,” said Jack Cowart, Executive Director of the Roy Lichtenstein Foundation. “We especially hope this will challenge and inspire future named awards by other artists to support this notable program of direct grants to deserving artists.”

FCA established Grants to Artists in 1993 to provide unrestricted cash awards to individual artists in all disciplines; confidential nominations are accepted from invited artists and arts professionals once a year and the recipients are determined by a selection panel comprised of artists, arts professionals, and FCA’s Board of Directors. The inaugural Roy Lichtenstein Award recipient will be announced in January 2018.

“Roy was among the small community of visual artists who supported FCA and its ‘artists for artists’ mission right from our start,” said Stacy Tenenbaum Stark, Executive Director of the Foundation for Contemporary Arts. “He gave a large painting, *Flatten--Sand Fleas!* (1962), to our first exhibition at the Allan Stone Gallery in 1963, and he supported every one of FCA’s benefit exhibitions during his lifetime. Roy’s generosity truly embodied Jasper Johns’s belief that FCA should be ‘rooted in the community from which art arises.’”

### About Roy Lichtenstein



Roy Lichtenstein at his exhibition *Roy Lichtenstein*, Galerie Ileana Sonnabend, Paris, 1965. (detail) Photograph Shunk-Kender. © J. Paul Getty Trust. Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles (2014.R.20). Gift of the Roy Lichtenstein Foundation in Memory of Harry Shunk and Janos Kender. Artwork: © Estate of Roy Lichtenstein. Courtesy The Roy Lichtenstein Foundation Archives. For image use permission, please contact: Frank Avila-Goldman, [fgoldman@estateofroylichtenstein.com](mailto:fgoldman@estateofroylichtenstein.com), and Shelley Lee, [shelleylee@estateofroylichtenstein.com](mailto:shelleylee@estateofroylichtenstein.com).

Roy Lichtenstein (1923–1997) was one of the most influential and innovative artists of the second half of the twentieth century. He is preeminently identified with Pop Art, a movement he helped originate, and his first fully achieved paintings were based on stereotyped comic subjects and commercial advertisements and rendered in a style mimicking the crude printing processes of newspaper reproduction. These paintings reinvigorated the American art scene and altered the history of modern art. Following his early success in the 1960s, he went on to create an oeuvre of more than 5,000 paintings, prints, drawings, sculptures, murals, and other objects celebrated for their wit and invention.

## **About The Roy Lichtenstein Foundation**

By the wishes of the artist and his family, the Roy Lichtenstein Foundation was chartered as a Private Operating Foundation in 1998, primarily to facilitate public access to the work of Roy Lichtenstein and the art and artists of his time; to create a catalogue raisonné of all known Lichtenstein works; and to share information which could assist the development and education of the next generations of curators, critics and scholars concerning the artist Roy Lichtenstein.

During the last fifteen years the Lichtenstein Foundation's activities have expanded to include: the rescue, organization, and donation of the enormous and historically consequential Shunk-Kender and Harry Shunk Photography Collections to a consortium of five international museums/research centers—the Getty Research Institute, Centre Pompidou, Tate, The National Gallery of Art (Washington DC), and The Museum of Modern Art; consistent support of the Aspen Institute National Study of Artist-Endowed Foundations; providing expertise to numerous Lichtenstein exhibitions; supporting outreach and research topics, including artists' materials and postwar art and art history; building a Study Collection of early Lichtenstein and later generative sketches, models, maquettes and artifacts; functioning as an image and information database for a broad range of art, art history and oral histories; and working with museums to acquire notable Lichtenstein artworks from its collections and the collections of others.

The Lichtenstein Foundation began operation in 1999 in the artist's West Greenwich Village studio. Its primary offices are currently located in a townhouse contiguous to the studio. These offices house the research library, administration, rights and reproductions, and catalogue raisonné work spaces.

<http://lichtensteinfoundation.org/>

## **About the Foundation for Contemporary Arts (FCA)**

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](http://www.foundationforcontemporaryarts.org)

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