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FOUNDATION FOR CONTEMPORARY ARTS ANNOUNCES 2018 ELLSWORTH KELLY AWARD RECIPIENT

New York, NY, June 26, 2018 – Foundation for Contemporary Arts (FCA) is pleased to announce the third recipient of The Ellsworth Kelly Award, a \$40,000 annual grant created during Ellsworth Kelly's lifetime and endowed by the Ellsworth Kelly Foundation to support museum exhibitions for contemporary artists. The recipient is the Mary S. Byrd Gallery of Art at Augusta University (Augusta, GA) for an exhibition of new multi-media works by Atlanta-based sculptor Bojana Ginn, opening in fall 2019. The exhibition will be curated by the Mary S. Byrd Gallery of Art's Director, Shannon Morris.

The Ellsworth Kelly Award is a by-invitation, \$40,000 annual grant to support a solo exhibition by an emerging, mid-career, or under-recognized contemporary visual artist at a regional U.S. art museum or university or college art gallery. The program and selection process is administered by FCA. Applications in this cycle were solicited from a small number of institutions east of the Missouri River. In 2020, applications from institutions west of the Missouri will be invited. The first recipient of The Ellsworth Kelly Award was the Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania in 2016, for a solo exhibition of film, video, and sculpture by filmmaker and artist Cauleen Smith, to be held in fall 2018. The second recipient was the Underground Museum in Los Angeles in 2017, for a solo exhibition of paintings by folk artist Abe Odedina, opening in spring 2019.

The 2018 Ellsworth Kelly Award will support a solo exhibition of new work by Bojana Ginn. Born in the former Yugoslavia, Ginn is an Atlanta-based sculptor whose interdisciplinary practice combines natural fibers and contemporary technology to explore the possibilities of line, time, and space. "Ginn's interest in re-defining humanity's relationship to ancient materials results in installations filled with vistas of light and organic fiber, which she manipulates in a non-traditional manner," said Ms. Morris. "As a practicing artist and scientist, she successfully combines the two [disciplines] into a complete aesthetic experience."

The Mary S. Byrd Gallery of Art's proposed exhibition of Bojana Ginn's work was selected by FCA's Board of Directors, including Cecily Brown, Anne Collier, Anthony B. Creamer III, Anne Dias, Robert Gober, Agnes Gund, Jasper Johns, Jennie C. Jones, Julian Lethbridge, Glenn Ligon, and T.J. Wilcox. In

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selecting the award, FCA's Directors seek projects that are in the earliest stages of planning at the time of review and require the financial catalyst provided by The Ellsworth Kelly Award to propel them from planning to realization.

"The Mary S. Byrd Gallery of Art mirrors Ellsworth Kelly's belief in supporting emerging, mid-career, and under-recognized artists," said Stacy Tenenbaum Stark, Executive Director of the Foundation for Contemporary Arts. "FCA is pleased that the 2018 Ellsworth Kelly Award will be the first to support an exhibition outside of a major metropolitan area, and the work of a local artist."

About Bojana Ginn

Bojana Ginn was born in 1974 in the former Yugoslavia and currently lives in Atlanta, GA. Prior to pursuing an artistic career, Ginn received her M.D. from the University of Belgrade in 2001. After moving to the United States in 2002 to take a position in Emory University's Biology Department, Ginn began to create art in her free time. Ginn eventually left the world of scientific academia, completing her M.F.A. in sculpture at the Savannah College of Art and Design, Atlanta in 2013. Ginn's work, comprised of natural fibers and new media, seeks to connect the technological and natural worlds. Clouds of wool imbued with LED lights redefine how the viewer experiences the space around them. Tied to her study of transhumanism, Ginn's installations create a "soft-space" for discovering the intimacies between humans and technology.

About the Mary S. Byrd Gallery of Art

The Mary S. Byrd Gallery of Art, founded in 2010, is located on the campus of Augusta University in Augusta, GA. It is named in honor of its living patron and supporter, Mary S. Byrd. Through exhibitions of emerging, mid-career, and established contemporary artists, the Mary S. Byrd Gallery of Art serves as a laboratory for student learning. In her role as the first full-time Gallery Director, Shannon Morris has worked with the University to make the Mary S. Byrd Gallery of Art a destination for contemporary art outside of a traditional metropolitan area.

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 3,000 grants awarded to artists and arts organizations—totaling over \$13 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

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