

Board of Directors
Cecily Brown
Anne Collier
Anthony B. Creamer III
Anne Dias
Agnes Gund
Jasper Johns
Jennie C. Jones
Julian Lethbridge
Glenn Ligon
Dean Moss
James Welling
T.J. Wilcox

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Kathleen Flynn
kf@contemporary-arts.org

FOUNDATION FOR CONTEMPORARY ARTS ANNOUNCES 2019 GRANTS TO ARTISTS

New York, NY, January 23, 2019 – Foundation for Contemporary Arts (FCA), a non-profit organization founded in 1963 by the artists John Cage (1912-1992) and Jasper Johns, announces eighteen \$40,000 unrestricted grants to individual artists, including six awards named for artists associated with FCA's history. True to FCA's founding mission, support for these awards stems from a community of artists and the individuals and foundations that support them. This unique "artists for artists" model additionally provides grantees with meaningful peer recognition and encouragement. The 2019 recipients are:

GRANTS TO ARTISTS AWARDS – Eighteen Awards of \$40,000 each

Dance

Darrell Jones, Chicago, IL

Mina Nishimura, Brooklyn, NY

taisha paggett, Los Angeles and Riverside, CA / THE MERCE CUNNINGHAM AWARD

Music/Sound

Camae Ayewa, Philadelphia, PA

Sarah Hennies, Ithaca, NY

Roberto Carlos Lange, Brooklyn, NY

Tomeka Reid, Queens, NY and Chicago, IL

C. Spencer Yeh, Queens, NY

Performance Art/Theater

Tania Bruguera, New York, NY / THE ROBERT RAUSCHENBERG AWARD

Julie Tolentino, Joshua Tree, CA

Poetry

Amy Gerstler, Los Angeles, CA / THE C.D. WRIGHT AWARD FOR POETRY

Douglas Kearney, Maple Grove, MN / THE CY TWOMBLY AWARD FOR POETRY

Stacy Szymaszek, Missoula, MT

Visual Arts

Trisha Donnelly, New York, NY / THE DOROTHEA TANNING AWARD

Joseph Grigely, Chicago, IL

Andy Robert, Brooklyn, NY / THE ROY LICHTENSTEIN AWARD

Mika Tajima, New York, NY / *This award is supported by the FCA Friends*

Clarissa Tossin, Los Angeles, CA

“In a climate where creative expression is fundamentally threatened, FCA provides artists with critical support and encouragement,” said Cecily Brown, a Director of the Foundation for Contemporary Arts. “It is an honor to nurture new and diverse voices, and to help these artists sustain a practice that enriches our society in uncertain times.”

Established in 1993, **Grants to Artists** awards provide significant, unrestricted assistance to individual performing and visual artists. Recipients are chosen annually through a confidential nomination and selection process. Six awards named for artists who have been associated with FCA over the years are made through the Grants to Artists program including: Merce Cunningham Award, Roy Lichtenstein Award, Robert Rauschenberg Award, Dorothea Tanning Award, Cy Twombly Award for Poetry, and C.D. Wright award for Poetry. Detailed descriptions of these awards are available on FCA's website.

The recipients were selected in November 2018 by the Directors of the Foundation: Cecily Brown, Anne Collier, Anthony B. Creamer III, Anne Dias, Agnes Gund, Jasper Johns, Jennie C. Jones, Julian Lethbridge, Glenn Ligon, Dean Moss, James Welling, and T.J. Wilcox. The Directors were joined in this year's grant selection process by the following panelists: Danspace Project Executive Director and Chief Curator Judy Hussie-Taylor; musician Jenny Lin; Associate Curator in the Department of Painting and Sculpture at The Museum of Modern Art Yasmil Raymond; and director, playwright, poet, and performer Fiona Templeton. Advising the selection committee on the Poetry category were poet Renne Gladman and artist Trevor Winkfield.

For the second year, one Grants to Artists award is underwritten by the membership dues of the FCA Friends, a group that began in 2017 and is comprised of forty serious and thoughtful arts patrons. In 2019 the FCA Friends will support Mika Tajima.

FCA will publish a booklet profiling the 2019 grantees in March. Artist statements, biographies, work samples, and other information about the 2019 grantees are available on FCA's website. High-resolution images and additional information are available upon request.

ABOUT FOUNDATION FOR CONTEMPORARY ARTS

FOUNDATION FOR CONTEMPORARY ARTS was established in 1963 by John Cage (1912-1992) and Jasper Johns.

By the early 1960s, some emerging visual artists were beginning to experience modest financial success while many of their peers working in dance, music, and theater struggled against severely limited funding options to present their work. Cage, Johns, and a few friends decided to organize a benefit exhibition 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, Robert Morris, Barnett Newman, Claes Oldenburg, Robert Rauschenberg, James Rosenquist, Frank Stella, Elaine Sturtevant, and Andy Warhol were among the sixty-seven artists who contributed to this landmark show at the Allan Stone Gallery, a prominent contemporary gallery of the period. With proceeds from the exhibition, the FCA began making grants to individual artists.

FCA depends on the generosity of artists to fund its programs and remains the only institution of its kind, created by artists to benefit artists. Its mission is to encourage, sponsor, and promote innovative work in the arts created and presented by individuals, groups, and organizations. FCA supports pioneering work in dance, music/sound, performance art/theater, poetry, and the visual arts through two core grant-making programs. Established in 1993, GRANTS TO ARTISTS are unrestricted, by-nomination grants that provide recipients with the financial means to engage in any artistic endeavors they wish to pursue. Each year, artists and arts professionals invited by FCA propose one artist, collective, or performing group whom they believe would benefit from an award. These confidential submissions are then reviewed by an advisory panel of artists, arts professionals, and FCA's Board of Directors and the recipients are determined. FCA also assists artists who are in need of urgent work-related funding through EMERGENCY GRANTS; requests are reviewed monthly by a volunteer panel of established artists that typically awards grants of between \$500 and \$2,500. Since 1963, 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, over 1,000 artists have contributed paintings, sculptures, drawings, prints, and photographs to help fund these programs.

www.foundationforcontemporaryarts.org