

Foundation for Contemporary Arts

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CONTACT: Kathleen Flynn
kf@contemporary-arts.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOUNDATION FOR CONTEMPORARY ARTS ANNOUNCES 2020 GRANTS TO ARTISTS AND JOHN CAGE AWARD

New York, NY, January 22, 2020 – Foundation for Contemporary Arts (FCA), a non-profit organization founded in 1963 by the artists John Cage (1912-1992) and Jasper Johns, is pleased to announce nineteen \$40,000 unrestricted grants to individual artists, including seven 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 2020 recipients are:

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

Dance

Milka Djordjevich, Los Angeles, CA
Marjani Forté-Saunders, Pasadena, CA
NIC Kay, Bronx, NY / THE DOROTHEA TANNING AWARD
jumatatu m. poe, Philadelphia, PA

Music/Sound

Ngọc Đại, Hanoi, Vietnam
Carmina Escobar, Los Angeles, CA
Sean Meehan, New York, NY
Julianne Swartz, Kingston, NY
Marshall Trammell, Albuquerque, NM

Performance Art/Theater

Suzanne Bocanegra, New York, NY / THE ROBERT RAUSCHENBERG AWARD
Jonathan González, Brooklyn, NY
Andrew Schneider, Brooklyn, NY / *This award is supported by the FCA Friends*

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Visual Arts

Kerstin Brätsch, New York, NY / THE HELEN FRANKENTHALER AWARD FOR PAINTING

Brad Kahlhamer, New York, NY

Frederick Weston, New York, NY / THE ROY LICHTENSTEIN AWARD

Poetry

LaTasha N. Nevada Diggs, New York, NY / THE C.D. WRIGHT AWARD FOR POETRY

Julian Talamantez Brolaski, Goleta, CA / THE CY TWOMBLY AWARD FOR POETRY

Indran Amirthanayagam, Rockville, MD

THE JOHN CAGE AWARD - \$40,000

Meredith Monk, New York, NY

“The Foundation for Contemporary Arts plays a vital role in the arts ecosystem, providing artists with unrestricted financial assistance, and supporting experimental work that may not otherwise find funding,” said Cecily Brown, a Director of the Foundation for Contemporary Arts. “It is a privilege to recognize this year’s grantees—who are at various and pivotal stages in their careers, and range in age from their 20s to their 70s.”

Established in 1993, GRANTS TO ARTISTS awards provide significant, unrestricted assistance to individual performing and visual artists, and poets. Recipients are chosen annually through a confidential two-part 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 the newly inaugurated Helen Frankenthaler Award for Painting, which joins the 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 JOHN CAGE AWARD was established in 1992 by the Foundation’s Board in memory of the late composer, one of FCA’s founders and a Director of the organization until his death. This unrestricted \$40,000 cash award is made biennially in recognition of outstanding achievement in the arts. Selections are made from invited nominations.

The recipients were selected by the Directors of the Foundation for Contemporary Arts: Cecily Brown, Anne Collier, Anthony B. Creamer III, Anne Dias, Jasper Johns, Jennie C. Jones, Julian Lethbridge, Dean Moss, Emily Wei Rales, and James Welling. The Directors were joined in this year’s grant selection process by the following panelists: art historian and author Bettina Funcke; musician Jenny Lin; Curator at The Kitchen Matthew Lyons; and playwright, director, and New York City Players Artistic Director Richard Maxwell. Advising the selection committee on the Poetry category were poet and writer David Henderson and poet Ann Lauterbach.

For the third 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 2020 the FCA Friends will support Andrew Schneider.

FCA will publish a booklet profiling the 2020 grantees in March. Artist statements, biographies, work samples, and other information about the 2020 grantees are available on FCA’s website. High-resolution images and additional information are available upon request.

About the Foundation for Contemporary Arts (FCA)

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, 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 \$15.5 million—have provided opportunities for creative exploration and development. To date, over 1,000 artists have contributed paintings, sculptures, drawings, prints, photographs, performances, and videos to help fund these programs. www.foundationforcontemporaryarts.org

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