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**FOUNDATION FOR CONTEMPORARY ARTS ANNOUNCES
\$2 MILLION FCA EMERGENCY GRANTS COVID-19 FUND
TO SUPPORT ARTISTS WITH CANCELED PROJECTS OR PERFORMANCES**

New York, NY, April 3, 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 the FCA EMERGENCY GRANTS COVID-19 FUND. In response to the abrupt closure of all arts venues around the country, and the even more precarious position in which this leaves so many emerging artists, this \$2 million fund will provide relief grants to artists whose performances or exhibitions are either unexpectedly canceled or indefinitely postponed as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

On March 18, FCA amended the application guidelines of its respected EMERGENCY GRANTS program—which offers modest, immediate grants to artists living and working in the United States with unexpected opportunities or budget shortfalls associated with presenting work to the public—to accept applications from artists suffering economic losses due to the closure of arts venues nationwide. The FCA EMERGENCY GRANTS COVID-19 FUND will offer one-time \$1,500 relief grants to artists to offset losses from the cancellation or postponement of performances or exhibitions due to the coronavirus outbreak. These losses may include expenses from already-purchased materials or equipment or anticipated income from ticket sales and artist and commissioning fees. In accordance with FCA’s mission, applications will have to meet the criteria of contemporary, experimental work, and artistic excellence. In keeping with FCA’s “by artists, for artists” founding spirit, FCA EMERGENCY GRANTS COVID-19 FUND applications will be reviewed and processed by artists on staff, and grants will be determined by an all-artist panel at semi-monthly panel meetings. The first panel meeting is set for early April.

“With the shuttering of arts venues nationwide due to the pandemic, many artists have lost the modest income that they earn from their creative practices. This is compounded by the fact that artists often piece together a livelihood through a variety of ‘gig jobs,’ most of which have been eliminated in the current crisis,” said Stacy Tenenbaum Stark, Executive Director of FCA. “Foundation for Contemporary Arts is fortunate to be in a position to amend its longstanding Emergency Grants program to launch the FCA EMERGENCY GRANTS COVID-19 FUND to support contemporary, experimental, artists suffering losses due to canceled public presentations. We are humbled by the generosity of so many foundations, artists, and individuals who have joined us in this vital initiative.”

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Over \$1.8 million has been raised to date for the FCA EMERGENCY GRANTS COVID-19 FUND, with a total goal of \$2 million. The fund has been generously supported by several artists and individuals, as well as the following foundations:

The Willem de Kooning Foundation
The Destina Foundation
Helen Frankenthaler Foundation COVID-19 Relief Effort
Howard Gilman Foundation
Glenstone Museum
Roy Lichtenstein Foundation
The Richard Pousette-Dart Foundation
The David Rockefeller Fund
Teiger Foundation
Trust for Mutual Understanding
Cy Twombly Foundation
The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts

The aforementioned supporters include several foundations endowed by artists who themselves contributed artwork to FCA's historic benefit exhibitions during their lifetimes, and in some cases these artist foundations have also endowed or funded named \$40,000 awards which are administered through FCA's GRANTS TO ARTISTS program.

Established in 1993, EMERGENCY GRANTS awards urgent funding to visual and performing artists with sudden opportunities to present their work to the public, or for unexpected expenses associated with scheduled performances and exhibitions. It is the only multi-disciplinary program that offers immediate assistance of this kind to artists living and working anywhere in the U.S., for projects occurring in the U.S. and abroad. Applications are reviewed monthly by a panel of established artists, and awarded grants with an average two-week turnaround, often making the difference between a project being completed or cancelled. In 2019, FCA awarded 179 Emergency Grants, totaling \$300,000.

Due to the high volume of applications being received, artists who wish to apply to the FCA EMERGENCY GRANTS COVID-19 FUND are asked to carefully review the program guidelines to ensure that their request meets FCA's criteria of supporting contemporary and experimental practices.

FCA will also distribute one-time \$1,500 relief grants to all its past GRANTS TO ARTISTS and JOHN CAGE AWARD recipients, a community of some 300 artists.

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 3,100 grants awarded to artists and arts organizations—totaling over \$16 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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