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FOUNDATION FOR CONTEMPORARY ARTS ANNOUNCES 2021 GRANTS TO ARTISTS AWARDS

New York, NY, January 28, 2021 – 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 2021 GRANTS TO ARTISTS awards, twenty \$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 2021 recipients are:

GRANTS TO ARTISTS AWARDS – Twenty awards of \$40,000 each

Dance

[mayfield brooks](#), Brooklyn, NY / THE MERCE CUNNINGHAM AWARD
[Jerron Herman](#), New York, NY
[Niall Jones](#), Brooklyn, NY
[Anna Martine Whitehead](#), Chicago, IL

Music/Sound

[Du Yun](#), New York, NY / *This award is supported by the FCA Friends*
[Lamin Fofana](#), Berlin, Germany
[Beverly Glenn-Copeland](#), Spencer’s Island, Canada
[Lisa E. Harris](#), Houston, TX / THE DOROTHEA TANNING AWARD

Performance Art/Theater

[Jenn Freeman | Po’Chop](#), Chicago, IL
[Regina José Galindo](#), Antigua, Guatemala / THE ROBERT RAUSCHENBERG AWARD
[Modesto Flako Jimenez](#), Bushwick, NY
[Haruna Lee](#), Brooklyn, NY

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Poetry

[Marcella Durand](#), New York, NY / THE C.D. WRIGHT AWARD FOR POETRY

[Willie Perdomo](#), Exeter, NH / THE CY TWOMBLY AWARD FOR POETRY

Visual Arts

[Candida Alvarez](#), Chicago, IL and Baroda, MI / THE HELEN FRANKENTHALER AWARD FOR PAINTING

[Ian Cheng](#), New York, NY

[Amie Siegel](#), Brooklyn, NY

[Kandis Williams](#), Los Angeles, CA

[Carmen Winant](#), Columbus, OH

[Constantina Zavitsanos](#), Brooklyn, NY / THE ROY LICHTENSTEIN AWARD

“It is a privilege for the Foundation for Contemporary Arts to recognize and celebrate this year’s grantees—twenty artists who explore and illuminate today’s complicated world through their diverse practices,” said Cecily Brown, a Director of the Foundation for Contemporary Arts. “After a year of financial devastation in the artist community, these unrestricted \$40,000 awards—and the meaningful encouragement they impart—are needed more than ever.”

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. Seven awards named for artists who have been associated with FCA over the years are made through the Grants to Artists program, including the Merce Cunningham Award, Helen Frankenthaler Award for Painting, Roy Lichtenstein Award, Robert Rauschenberg Award, Dorothea Tanning Award, Cy Twombly Award for Poetry, and C.D. Wright Award for Poetry. Additionally one award is underwritten by the FCA FRIENDS, a group of thoughtful and serious arts patrons. Detailed descriptions of these awards are available on [FCA’s website](#).

The recipients were selected by the Directors of the Foundation for Contemporary Arts: Cecily Brown, Anne Collier, Anthony B. Creamer III, Jasper Johns, Jennie C. Jones, Julian Lethbridge, Dean Moss, Emily Wei Rales, James Welling, and John Yau. The Directors were joined in this year’s grant selection process by the following panelists: Naima Keith, Vice President, Education and Public Programs at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Jaamil Olawale Kosoko, poet, curator, and performance artist; Matthew Lyons, Curator at The Kitchen; and Zeena Parkins, musician/sound composer. Advising the selection committee on the Poetry category were poet Stacy Szymaszek and poet, performer, and educator Edwin Torres.

FCA will celebrate the 2021 grantees with a virtual Grants Reception which will livestream on March 15. It will also publish a booklet profiling the 2021 grantees in March; artist statements, biographies, work samples, and other information about the grantees are currently 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: Grants to Artists and Emergency Grants. 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 4,600 grants awarded to artists and arts organizations—nearly \$19.4 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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