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**FOUNDATION FOR CONTEMPORARY ARTS ANNOUNCES  
\$1 MILLION GIFT FROM THE ELLSWORTH KELLY FOUNDATION  
TO ESTABLISH AN ANNUAL ELLSWORTH KELLY AWARD;  
INAUGURAL AWARD MADE TO THE INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART AT THE  
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR A 2018 SOLO EXHIBITION OF  
FILMMAKER AND ARTIST CAULEEN SMITH**

**New York, NY, July 1, 2016** – Foundation for Contemporary Arts (FCA) is pleased to announce a \$1 million gift from the Ellsworth Kelly Foundation. The gift will fund an endowment to support The Ellsworth Kelly Award, a new \$40,000 annual grant. It is largest single cash contribution in FCA’s fifty-three-year history and continues FCA’s long legacy of artists supporting artists.

The Ellsworth Kelly Award is a \$40,000 grant to support a solo exhibition by an emerging, mid-career, or under-recognized contemporary visual artist at a regional art museum or university or college art gallery in the United States. The program and selection process will be administered by FCA. The first recipient of The Ellsworth Kelly Award is the Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania, for a solo exhibition of film, video, and sculpture by filmmaker and artist Cauleen Smith in fall 2018, curated by Anthony Elms. Ms. Smith was a recipient of FCA’s Grants to Artists award in 2014 (\$30,000).

“Ellsworth recognized that a museum exhibition can be transformative for an artist’s career, and this award is intended to provide that opportunity to artists,” said Jack Shear, President of the Ellsworth Kelly Foundation. “Ellsworth loved museums and understood their importance in preserving our cultural heritage. The Ellsworth Kelly Foundation has a long history of support for museums in the United States and throughout the world, with a particular emphasis on the conservation of art works. FCA, with their deep involvement in the artist community, is the ideal partner for this new initiative to support museum exhibitions for contemporary artists.”

Throughout its history, FCA has raised funds through the sale of artwork contributed by over 900 visual artists to its benefit exhibitions. Proceeds from these exhibitions fund grants made to individual artists. The Ellsworth Kelly Award continues FCA’s pioneering model of artists supporting their peers.

“Ellsworth Kelly was a great friend to FCA, contributing many paintings, drawings, and prints to our benefit exhibitions. His donations helped sustain FCA’s programs and support its growth over five

decades. We are honored to receive this gift and proud to establish this new award in his name,” said Stacy Tenenbaum Stark, Executive Director of the Foundation for Contemporary Arts. “We only wish Ellsworth were still with us to announce the award he helped to create.

“This will be the first major solo exhibition of Cauleen’s work,” Stark continued. “We are pleased that FCA can further impact her work and career through The Ellsworth Kelly Award.”

A request for proposals for The Ellsworth Kelly Award will be issued by FCA each spring to a small group of art museums and university or college art galleries, alternating between the eastern and western United States, with the Missouri River as the dividing line. The inaugural grant cycle was conducted in spring 2016 in the eastern states and will move west in 2017.

Continuing its “by artists, for artists” approach, FCA’s Board of Directors reviews the invited applications and selects The Ellsworth Kelly Award recipient. The current Directors of the Foundation for Contemporary Arts are Cecily Brown, Anthony B. Creamer III, Robert Gober, Anne Dias Griffin, Agnes Gund, Jasper Johns, Julian Lethbridge, Glenn Ligon, Kara Walker, and T.J. Wilcox.

The Ellsworth Kelly Award joins three other permanently endowed awards at FCA: the biennial John Cage Award, the biennial Merce Cunningham Award, and the annual Robert Rauschenberg Award. These three awards recognize artists who were instrumental to FCA’s founding.

“The Directors are pleased that Ellsworth’s longtime support of FCA has culminated in this imaginative award in his name,” said Jasper Johns, who founded the Foundation for Contemporary Arts with John Cage in 1963.

### About Ellsworth Kelly (1923-2015)



Ellsworth Kelly in his studio, Spencertown, New York, 2009. Photo by Jack Shear.

Ellsworth Kelly was born in Newburgh, New York in 1923 and after spending time in Paris and Manhattan, he lived and worked in Spencertown, New York until his death in December 2015. Kelly's work was the subject of solo exhibitions at MoMA, the Guggenheim, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and many international institutions including the Tate and the Haus der Kunst. He executed numerous public commissions including sculptures for the Art Institute of Chicago and the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia and a work for the United States Holocaust Memorial. Kelly was the recipient of dozens of awards, prizes, and honorary degrees, notably the National Medal of Arts presented by President Barack Obama in 2013.

### **About Cauleen Smith**

Cauleen Smith was born in Riverside, California in 1967 and lives in Chicago. She is an interdisciplinary artist whose work reflects upon the everyday possibilities of the imagination. Rooted within the discourse of mid-twentieth-century experimental film, Smith draws equally from the tactics of structuralism, third world cinema, and science fiction in an attempt to make things that nod to these references while offering a phenomenological experience for spectators and participants. Smith's films, objects, and installations have been featured in group exhibitions at the Blanton Museum of Art, Austin; Houston Contemporary Art Museum; New Museum, New York; Studio Museum in Harlem; San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art; and Yerba Buena Center for Arts, San Francisco. Smith has had solo shows at The Kitchen and the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago. In 2014, she received FCA's Grants to Artists award in visual arts and in 2016, she received the Herb Alpert Award in the Arts for film.

### **About 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, emerging visual artists were beginning to experience modest financial success, while Cage and Merce Cunningham—and others working in dance, music, and theater—struggled to find funding options to present their work. Cage, Johns, Robert Rauschenberg, and other painters and sculptors decided to organize a benefit exhibition to support their colleagues in the performance arts. Along with Johns and Rauschenberg, Willem de Kooning, Marcel Duchamp, Philip Guston, Alex Katz, Ellsworth Kelly, Roy Lichtenstein, Barnett Newman, Claes Oldenburg, James Rosenquist, Frank Stella, and Andy Warhol were among the sixty-seven artists who contributed to this landmark show at the Allan Stone Gallery. With proceeds from the exhibition, the Foundation began making grants to individual artists.

Now known as the Foundation for Contemporary Arts (FCA), FCA's mission is to encourage, sponsor, and promote innovative work in the arts created and presented by individuals, groups, and organizations. Its legacy continues today with unrestricted, by-nomination grants supporting pioneering work across the fields of dance, music/sound, performance art/theater, poetry, and the visual arts. In addition to vital financial assistance, grantees receive the inestimable encouragement that comes with recognition by their peers. A fund is also maintained to assist artists with emergencies and unexpected opportunities related to their work. More than 2,600 grants awarded to artists and arts organizations—totaling nearly \$12 million—have provided opportunities for creative exploration and development. To date, over 900 artists have made these grants possible by contributing paintings, sculptures, drawings, prints, and photographs to the fourteen benefit exhibitions held over the years.

[www.foundationforcontemporaryarts.org](http://www.foundationforcontemporaryarts.org)