



**An
American
City**

**Eleven
Cultural
Exercises**

FRONT International
Cleveland Triennial for
Contemporary Art
1460 West 29th Street
Cleveland, OH 44113
Frontart.org



Cleveland, Ohio. Courtesy FRONT International.

FRONT International: Cleveland Triennial for Contemporary Art Announces First Group of Participating Artists, Artists-in-Residence and Partner Sites for "An American City: Eleven Cultural Exercises"

**Connecting regional, national, and international
institutions, curators, and artists in Cleveland in a
multipart curatorial program**

July 14 – September 30, 2018

**Press and Professional Preview Days: July 12 – 13, 2018
Cleveland, Ohio**

**CLEVELAND, Ohio (July 20, 2017) – FRONT International: Cleveland
Triennial for Contemporary Art announces its participating artists,
artists-in-residence and presenting partners for its first edition,
titled *An American City: Eleven Cultural Exercises*, running July 14,**

2018 through September 30, 2018. Conceived by FRONT's Artistic Directors Michelle Grabner and Jens Hoffmann, this multipart presentation of interconnected "cultural exercises" will investigate the significance and meaning of staging a large-scale international triennial in the contemporary context. Bringing together more than 55 local, national and international artists across mediums and disciplines, FRONT will partner with sites throughout the city of Cleveland and beyond to explore artistic collaborations, intellectual exchanges and curatorial dialogues connecting the city and the Great Lakes region to broader global, political and economic networks. FRONT's ambitious program will weave critical approaches to museum exhibitions, public and educational programs, residencies, publications and research strategies in a complex presentation.

FRONT will collaborate with cultural institutions and site-specific locations in Cleveland, foregrounding meaningful partnerships within the city's cultural fabric and urban history to present focused projects, oscillating between large-scale commissions and exhibitions by recognized artists and emerging practitioners. Grabner and Hoffmann will develop these exhibitions in close collaboration with the institutions' respective curators.


"As an experimental program of exhibitions, residencies and public events, FRONT investigates what it means to stage a large-scale international biennial or triennial today, looking carefully at the feasibility, necessity and structures of large art events, proposing alternatives and reprioritizing typical exhibition hierarchies," says FRONT's Executive Director, Fred Bidwell. "Simultaneously, it aims to ameliorate the often-lacking relationship between an event's local and regional art scene and global artistic discourses."

Describing the exhibition, FRONT Artistic Director Jens Hoffmann said, "Over the course of the year leading up to the opening, FRONT will work to examine the local, regional and global influences that have shaped a 21st century American city located outside the traditional centers of cultural power and production in the United States. Taking a polyvalent approach to the theme of the Triennial's inaugural edition, *An American City*, the 'cultural exercises' we've outlined aim to disrupt and complicate the idea of Cleveland and the American heartland, rather than simply recognize its culture and history."



“An American City considers the complex transformations that Cleveland, Ohio, a medium-size city in the center of the country, has undergone in recent decades,” says FRONT Artistic Director Michelle Grabner. “It will take the city’s ongoing search for a clearer and more definitive identity as a platform to examine how its particular history might parallel those of other cities in the United States and around the world. Treating Cleveland as both a model of urban development and a physical site, the programs will elucidate the ways in which contemporary experiences of urban development are shaped by historical and current events, and how a city’s collective memory and sociopolitical imperatives can define its artistic and curatorial production.”

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS & ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE AS OF JULY 14, 2017



Asian Dope Boys (Beijing, China)
Nasser Al-Salem (Jeddah, Saudi Arabia)
Juan Araujo (Lisbon, Portugal)*
Dana Awartani (London, United Kingdom/Jeddah, Saudi Arabia)*
Dawoud Bey (Chicago, USA)
Barbara Bloom (New York, USA)
Candice Breitz (Berlin, Germany)
Nicholas Buffon (New York, USA)
A.K. Burns (New York, USA)*
Gerard Byrne (Dublin, IRE)
Sean Connelly (Honolulu, USA)*
Sarah Crowner (Los Angeles, USA)
Abraham Cruzvillegas (Mexico City, Mexico)
Marlon de Azambuja (Madrid, Spain)
Casey Jane Ellison (Los Angeles, USA)
Harrell Fletcher (Portland, USA)*
Claire Fontaine (Paris, France)
Simon Fujiwara (Berlin, Germany)
Cyprien Gaillard (Berlin, Germany)
Dani Gal (Berlin, Germany)
Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster (Paris, France)
Maryam Jafri (Copenhagen, Denmark/New York, USA)
Cui Jie (Beijing, China)
Hao Jing Ban (Beijing, China)
Li Jinghu (Dongguan, China)
William E. Jones (Los Angeles, USA)
Alex Jovanovich (New York, USA)
Lin Ke (Beijing, China)*

Mike Kelley [deceased]
Luisa Lambri (Milan, Italy)
Guillaume Leblon (Paris, France/New York, USA)*
Adriana Martínez (Bogotá, Colombia)*
Laura Huertes Millán (Bogotá, Colombia)
Ad Minoliti (Buenos Aires, Argentina)
Sarah Morris (New York, USA)
Naeem Mohaiemen (New York, USA/Dhaka, Bangladesh)
Kirsten Pieroth (Berlin, Germany)
Michael Rakowitz (Chicago, USA)
Cheng Ran (Beijing, China)
Jennifer Reeder (Chicago, USA)
John Riepenhoff (Milwaukee, USA)*
Kay Rosen (New York, USA)
Allen Ruppertsberg (Los Angeles/New York, USA)
Tino Sehgal (Berlin, Germany)
Indre Šerpytytė (London, United Kingdom)*
Yinka Shonibare, MBE (RA) (London, United Kingdom)
Katrín Sigurdardóttir (New York, USA)
Cally Spooner (London, United Kingdom)*
Julian Stanczak [deceased]
Martine Syms (Los Angeles, USA)
Zhou Tao (Guangzhou, China)
Jim Trainor (New York, USA)
Philip Vanderhyden (New York, USA)
Jan Van der Ploeg (Amsterdam, Netherlands)
Bárbara Wagner and Benjamin de Búrca (São Paulo, Brazil)

Geographic references indicate locations where artists currently live and work.

* Indicates artists selected to participate in FRONT's Artist-in-Residence program, The Madison Residencies-with support from Cleveland Foundation's Creative Fusion program-will take place at the newly developed Glenville Arts Campus on the East side of Cleveland. The Madison Residency program will include six international, six national and six local artists.

PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS AND CURATORIAL

CORRESPONDENTS

Presenting partners and venues include:

Akron Art Museum
Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin College
Canvas City Murals, Downtown Cleveland
Cleveland Clinic
Cleveland Institute of Art
Cleveland Museum of Art
Cleveland Public Library
Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland
Hingetown, Ohio City, Cleveland
The Madison, Glenville Arts Campus
MOCA Cleveland
SPACES
St. John's Episcopal Church, Ohio City, Cleveland
Steamship William G. Mather, Great Lakes Science Center
Transformer Station
Weltzheimer/Johnson Usonian House, Oberlin College
West Side Market and Ohio City Farm

The Triennial has further formed a consortium of international Curatorial Correspondents to provide feedback and discussion from a global perspective, bringing social and political concerns from their respective regions to reflect on parallel situations in the United States and Cleveland. Each Curatorial Correspondent will be invited to Cleveland to conduct research and develop public programs. The Curatorial Correspondents include **Defne Ayas** (Rotterdam), **Diana Betancourt** (Manila), **Rose Bouthillier** (Saskatoon), **Fernanda Brenner** (São Paulo), **Reem Fadda** (Jerusalem), **Snejana Krasteva** (Moscow), **Carol Yinghua Lu** (Beijing), **Piper Marshall** (New York), **Suzana Sousa** (Luanda) and **Chen Tamir** (Tel Aviv).

AN AMERICAN CITY: ELEVEN CULTURAL EXERCISES

FRONT's multipart program of interconnected "cultural exercises" encompasses museum exhibitions, public and educational programs, residencies, publications and research strategies.

1. Artist Focus – The main exercise of *An American City* comprises individual projects by the invited artists in the partnering institutions, as well as in public outdoor spaces.

2. **Canvas City** – In tribute to one of Cleveland’s most influential artists, Julian Stanczak, Canvas City will re-create the mural Stanczak made in 1973 for the Cleveland Area Arts Council’s City Canvas program.

3. **The City as Readymade** – A program that will examine several sites, buildings and locations in Cleveland that carry social, cultural or political significance in its urban history and offer insight into the narratives behind the city’s development. Sites will be selected by the artistic directors in collaboration with Cleveland scholars and historians. Special guided tours of these sites will take place throughout the run of the exhibition.

4. **Cleveland Cine Club** – Will convene in a specially designed theater inside the Transformer Station and present a daily program of film and video works.

5. **Digital Infinity** – A collaboration with the KADIST Art Foundation, inviting visual artists to create online projects, thereby expanding the reach of FRONT to a worldwide audience.

6. **Exhibition as Discourse** – A series of lectures and roundtable discussions featuring curators, exhibition makers and scholars that will investigate the discursive and critical potential of exhibitions, starting in the fall of 2017 at the Glenville Arts Campus.

7. **The Glenville Exchanges** – A series of public programs taking place at the Glenville Arts Campus, starting in the fall of 2017, forming dialogs between the visiting artists and artists based in Cleveland.

8. **The Great Lakes** – Part one comprises a research and lecture tour led by the artistic directors this fall to some of the major cities and institutions across the Great Lakes region including:

Art Gallery of Ontario (Toronto, Canada)

Cleveland Institute of Art (Cleveland, OH)

College for Creative Studies (Detroit, MI)

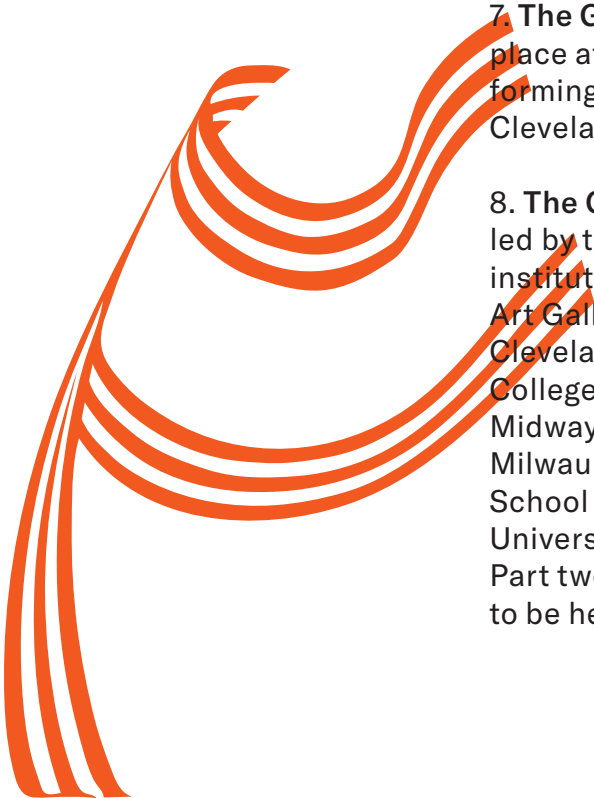
Midway Gallery (Minneapolis, MN)

Milwaukee Art Museum (Milwaukee, WI)

School of the Art Institute of Chicago (Chicago, IL)

University of Buffalo (Buffalo, NY)

Part two is an exhibition comprising art by artists from those cities, to be held at the Reinberger Gallery, Cleveland Institute of Art.



9. **Living Organisms** – A look at the resurgence over the past two decades of live and performance art.

10. **The Madison Residencies** – An artist-in-residence program starting in the fall of 2017, based at the newly developed Glenville Arts Campus on the east side of Cleveland. The residency program is named after Robert P. Madison, Ohio's first licensed black architect and the designer of the residency building. The Madison Residencies are made possible with support from Cleveland Foundation's Creative Fusion program.

11. **Reading, Writing, Publishing** – A series of publications created in collaboration with the New York design office Project Projects will accompany the first edition of FRONT.

PRESS INQUIRIES

Shawna Gallancy

SUTTON

shawna@suttonpr.com

+1 212 202 3402

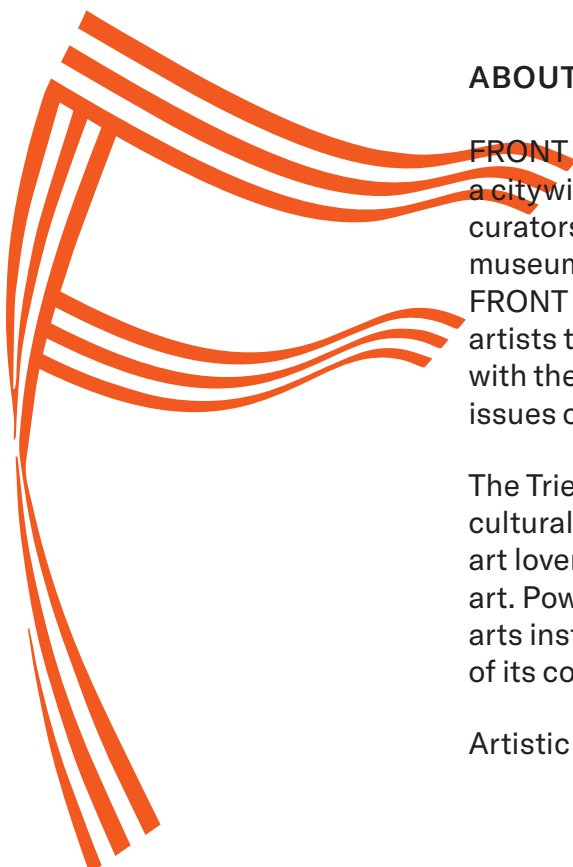
Notes to the Editor

ABOUT FRONT INTERNATIONAL

FRONT International: Cleveland Triennial for Contemporary Art is a citywide program developed by an international team of artists, curators and scholars with the creative resources of Cleveland. In museum exhibitions and unconventional sites spread across the city, FRONT will be an expansive stage for local, national and international artists to create and share new work that is inspired by and engaged with the most important social, political, cultural and environmental issues of today.

The Triennial will be an important showcase for Northeast Ohio's cultural resources, convening artists, curators, scholars, collectors and art lovers around a city- and region-wide celebration of contemporary art. Powered by all of Cleveland and Northeast Ohio's renowned visual arts institutions, the exhibition will be unique in the world for the scope of its collaboration.

Artistic Directors Michelle Grabner and Jens Hoffmann have titled



the first edition of *FRONT An American City*. As conceived by Grabner and Hoffmann, this edition of *FRONT* is a multipart program of eleven interconnected “cultural exercises” that address aesthetics in relation to political change and societal uncertainty. Challenging the resurgence of American Pragmatism—a set of concepts that focus more on the practical uses of knowledge and less on knowledge as a tool for reflection and criticality—the exhibition will interweave critical approaches to museum exhibitions, public and educational programs, residencies, publications and research strategies in a multi-venue presentation unfolding across Cleveland and its surroundings.

WHEN

July 14–September 30, 2018

WHERE

Cleveland and Northeast Ohio

PRESENTING PARTNERS AND VENUES

Akron Art Museum
Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin College
Canvas City Murals, Downtown Cleveland
Cleveland Clinic
Cleveland Institute of Art
Cleveland Museum of Art
Cleveland Public Library
Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland
Hingetown, Ohio City, Cleveland
The Madison, Glenville Arts Campus
MOCA Cleveland

SPACES

St. John’s Episcopal Church, Ohio City, Cleveland
Steamship William G. Mather, Great Lakes Science Center
Transformer Station
Weltzheimer/Johnson Usonian House, Oberlin College
West Side Market and Ohio City Farm

LEADERSHIP

Fred Bidwell, *Executive Director*

Fred Bidwell is a philanthropist, collector and community leader. In 2011 he and his wife established the Fred and Laura Ruth Bidwell Foundation. In 2013 the Bidwell Foundation opened Transformer Station, a contemporary art exhibition space on Cleveland’s West Side. Transformer Station alternates between acting as a venue for



exhibitions curated by the Bidwells from their renowned collection of photo-based contemporary art and as a venue for exhibitions organized by the Cleveland Museum of Art. Fred Bidwell serves on the boards of the Akron Art Museum and the Cleveland Museum of Art and on the Visiting Committee of the Allen Memorial Art Museum.

Michelle Grabner, *Artistic Director*

Michelle Grabner is a celebrated American painter and conceptual artist. Her work is in the collections of the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Milwaukee Art Museum; Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; DaimlerChrysler Collection, Berlin; Mudam Luxembourg; Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.; and the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. In November 2012, Grabner was selected as one of three curators to organize the 2014 Whitney Biennial in New York. She recently curated the 2016 Portland Biennial, a statewide exhibition in Oregon. Grabner is the Crown Family Professor in Painting and Drawing at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. With her husband, Brad Killam, she co-directs the project spaces The Suburban, in Milwaukee, and the Poor Farm, in Little Wolf, Wisconsin. Michelle Grabner serves on the board of the Milwaukee Art Museum.

Jens Hoffmann, *Artistic Director*

Jens Hoffmann is an exhibition maker, writer, educator and editor based in New York, Milan and Detroit. From 2012 to 2017 he was deputy director of the Jewish Museum in New York, where he currently works as director of exhibitions and public programs. He has been Susanne Feld Hilberry Senior Curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit since 2012 and a curator and senior adviser for the KADIST Art Foundation in San Francisco and Paris since 2008. In 2017 he was appointed curator for Fundación Arte in Buenos Aires. Formerly director of the CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, and director of exhibitions at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, Hoffmann has curated and co-curated more than five dozen exhibitions around the world, including the 9th Shanghai Biennale, the 12th Istanbul Biennial and the 2nd San Juan Triennial. He is the founding editor of *The Exhibitionist: Journal on Exhibition Making* and editor-at-large of *Mousse* magazine. Since 2003, Hoffmann has been adjunct professor at the Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti in Milan and was associate professor at the Graduate Program in Curatorial Practice at California College of the Arts in San Francisco (2006–2012). A frequent contributor to art magazines such as *Frieze* and *Artforum*, he has written more than 250 essays for exhibition catalogs and museum publications worldwide. In 2016, Hoffmann received the Award



for Curatorial Excellence from the American Association of Art Museum Curators Foundation.

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