

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

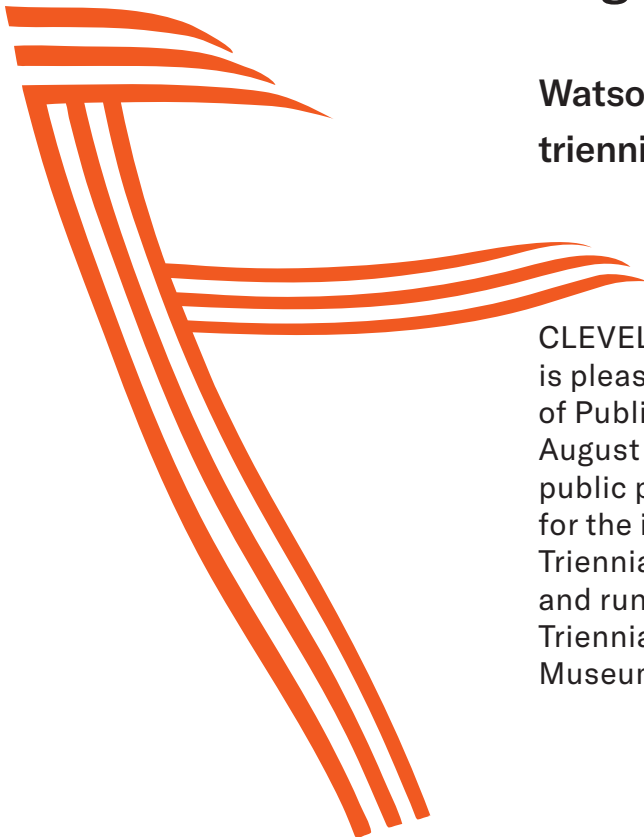


Arlene Watson

FRONT Exhibition Company Announces Appointment of Arlene Watson as Director of Public Programs and Engagement

**Watson to oversee education and public programs for
triennial opening July 14, 2018**

CLEVELAND, Ohio (August 15, 2017) – FRONT Exhibition Company is pleased to announce Arlene Watson has been named Director of Public Programs and Engagement. Watson assumed the role on August 7 and is responsible for the realization of education and public programs, and for community engagement opportunities for the inaugural edition of FRONT International: Cleveland Triennial for Contemporary Art, which will launch July 14, 2018, and run through September 30, 2018. Coordinating with all of the Triennial's Presenting Partners, including the Allen Memorial Art Museum, Akron Art Museum, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland Institute



of Art, Cleveland Museum of Art, MOCA Cleveland, SPACES and Transformer Station, Watson will organize a year's worth of public access to FRONT programming, beginning with FRONT Artist Residency activities at the Glenville Arts Campus in September 2017.

"We are committed to developing an active schedule of activities that fosters multiple levels of engagement with the art and artists of FRONT across different audience types," said Fred Bidwell, Executive Director. "With programs running the gamut from educational and scholarly offerings to interactive demonstrations and artist talks, families, students, collectors, scholars and artists will have an extraordinary opportunity to participate in one of North America's most ambitious contemporary art events."

Opening in summer 2018, the Triennial's first edition, titled An American City: Eleven Cultural Exercises, will feature more than 60 international, national and local artists in over 20 major exhibitions and installations spread across Northeast Ohio. Speaking about her new role, Watson said, "I believe art is an essential connector of people and places. I am excited that I can use my passion for community engagement to help this transformational project bring so many audiences together through contemporary art. It will be a privilege to work alongside the talented education and engagement staff at each of our presenting partners, as well as community stakeholders, to reach our national and international visitors and the communities in Northeast Ohio. I am particularly excited about the potential of our Madison Artist Residency Campus, in Cleveland's Glenville neighborhood, where together we can make a lasting impact and be a part of the revitalization of that important community."

Prior to her new position at FRONT, Watson was director of development at MOCA Cleveland. Previous positions include creative director at Vocon, a full-service, Cleveland-based architectural and design firm, and principal and creative director at Mobius Grey LLC, Cleveland. In 2011, Watson was awarded a Marshall Memorial Fellowship by the German Marshall Fund. Watson received a BFA in graphic design from the Pratt Institute in New York City.



PRESS INQUIRIES

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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 working 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.

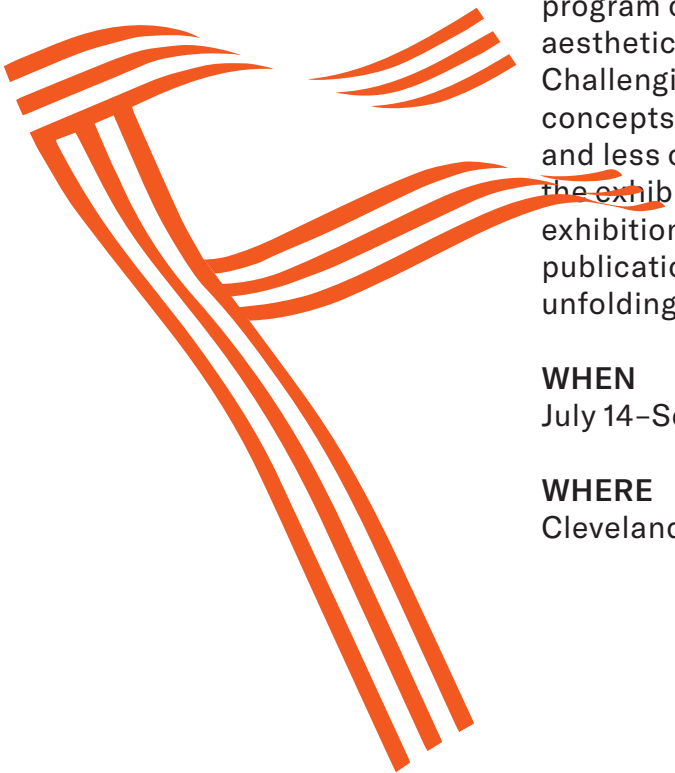
Artistic Directors Michelle Grabner and Jens Hoffmann have titled the first edition of FRONT "An American City." As conceived by Grabner and Hoffmann, this edition of FRONT is a multipart program of eleven interconnected "cultural exercises" that address aesthetics in relation to political change and 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



FRONT 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 Church, Ohio City, Cleveland
Steamship William G. Mather, Great Lakes Science Center
Transformer Station
Weltzheimer/Johnson House, Oberlin College
West Side Market and Ohio City Farm

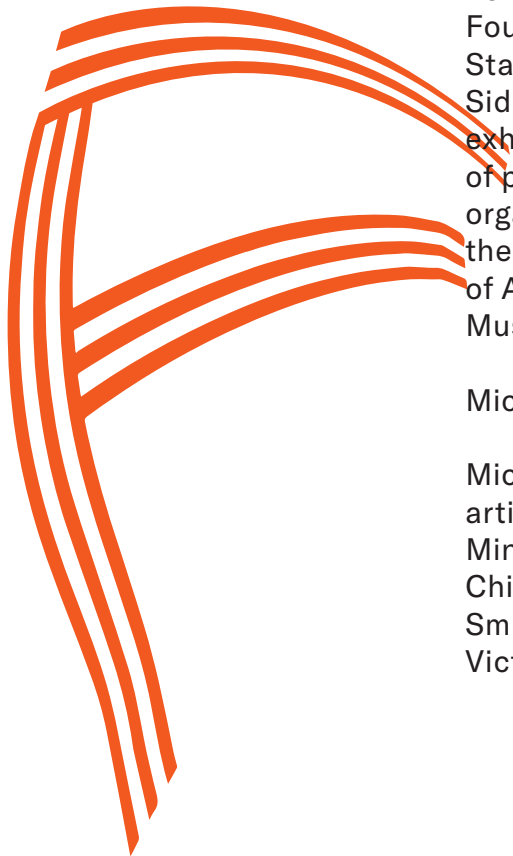
LEADERSHIP

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. Hoffmann has been adjunct professor at the Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti in Milan since 2003 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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A decorative graphic consisting of several thick, wavy, parallel lines in orange and white, flowing from the bottom left towards the top right, partially overlapping the list of names.

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