

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



FRONT International: Cleveland Triennial for Contemporary Art Announces Details for Phase One of The Great Lakes Tour

CLEVELAND, Ohio (October 16, 2017) – FRONT International: Cleveland Triennial for Contemporary Art announces details for The Great Lakes Tour, one part of the interconnected cultural exercises of An American City that will investigate the significance and meaning of staging a large-scale international triennial in the contemporary context.

The Great Lakes Tour is comprised of two parts: a research and lecture tour by the Triennial's artistic directors, Jens Hoffmann and Michelle Grabner, to some of the major cities across the Great Lakes region—including Cleveland, Buffalo, Chicago, Detroit, Milwaukee, Toronto, Flint, and Minneapolis/St. Paul—and an exhibition comprised of artworks by artists from those cities that will take place at Reinberger Gallery at the Cleveland Institute of Art. The first leg of this tour will involve talks and panels with the artistic directors at AGO - Art Gallery of Ontario, University of Buffalo Center for Fine Arts, and Midway Contemporary Art. The second leg will commence in mid November 2017, with the third and fourth legs to take place in 2018, venues to be announced.

By undertaking this tour and survey, the artistic directors actively support a focused inquiry into art beyond the coasts, into the heartland of the United States. The resulting exhibition will bring this examination to the foreground as one of the cultural exercises of An



American City, taking place in Cleveland from July 14 to September 30, 2018.

The Great Lakes region, a territory spanning eight US states, as well as the Canadian province of Ontario, is home to more than fifty million people. The Great Lakes are a major water transport corridor for bulk goods—approximately 170 million tons of cargo moves over the lakes annually—and thus an enormously important area both economically and politically. Many of the country's social, economic, and political challenges are exemplified throughout these states. Despite a decade of job loss, demographic shifts, and falling household incomes, there is strong potential for sustainable future growth, and the curatorial inquiry seeks to question and elucidate how it can move onward from its Rust Belt narrative as a story of resurgence.

Events in Phase One of the Great Lakes Tour include:

2pm, Saturday, October 14

AGO - Art Gallery of Ontario

317 Dundas Street West

Toronto, Ontario

6:30pm, Monday, October 16

University of Buffalo Center for Fine Arts

202 Center for the Arts, North Campus

Buffalo, New York

7:30pm, Tuesday, October 17

Midway Contemporary Art

527 SE 2nd Ave

Minneapolis, MN

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Join the Conversation! #FRONTart2018

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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 Triennial 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

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

Where:

Cleveland and Northeast Ohio

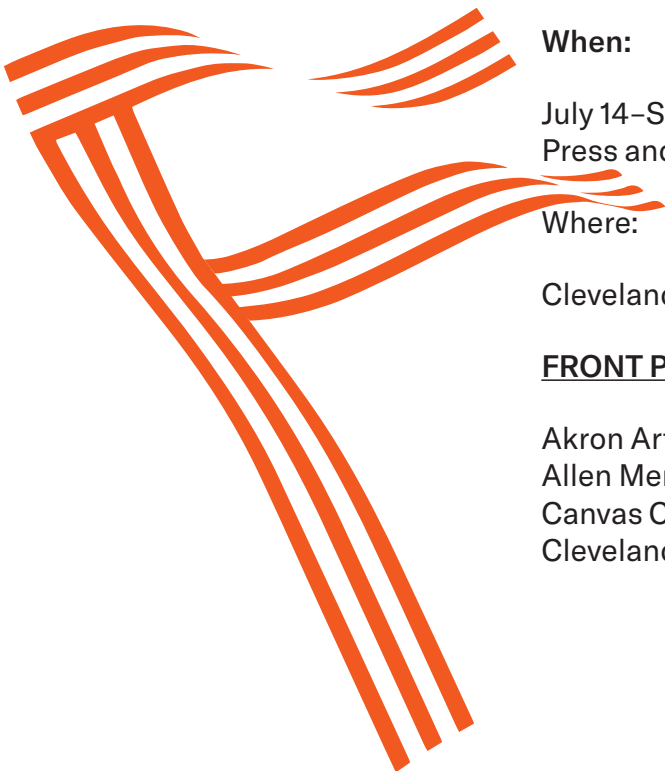
FRONT Presenting Partners and Venues

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, PNC Glenville Arts Campus
MOCA Cleveland
SPACES
Steamship William G. Mather, Great Lakes Science Center
St. John's Episcopal Church, Ohio City, Cleveland
Transformer Station
Weltzheimer/Johnson House, Oberlin College
West Side Market and Ohio City Farm

Leadership

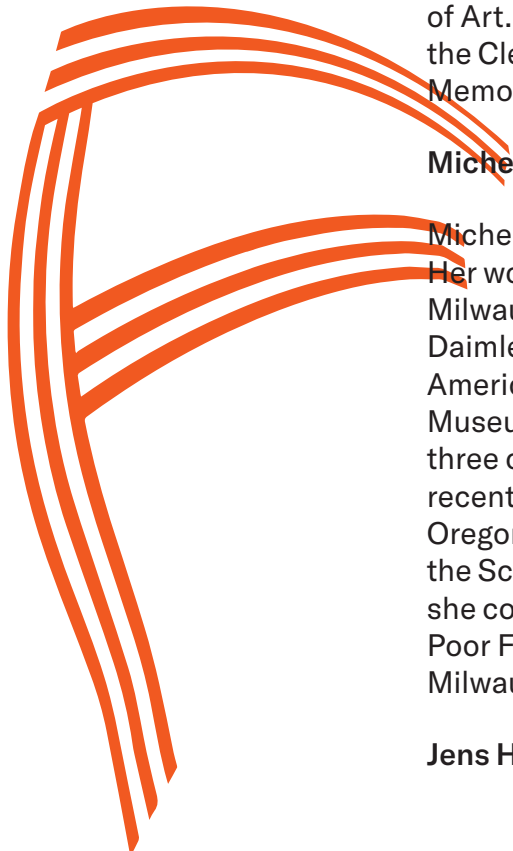
Fred Bidwell, Executive Director

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 serving 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, DC; 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. 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, New York, where he currently works as Director of Exhibitions and Public Programs. He has been the 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, 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 Founding Editor of *The Exhibitionist: Journal on Exhibition Making* and Editor-at-Large of *Mousse Magazine*. Hoffmann has been an adjunct professor at the Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti, Milan, since 2003 and was previously an associate professor in the Graduate Program in Curatorial Practice at California College of the Arts, San Francisco. A frequent contributor to art magazines such as *Frieze* and *Artforum*, he has written more than 250 essays for exhibition catalogues and museum publications worldwide. In 2016, Hoffmann received the Award for Curatorial Excellence from the Association of Art Museum Curators Foundation.

Support

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