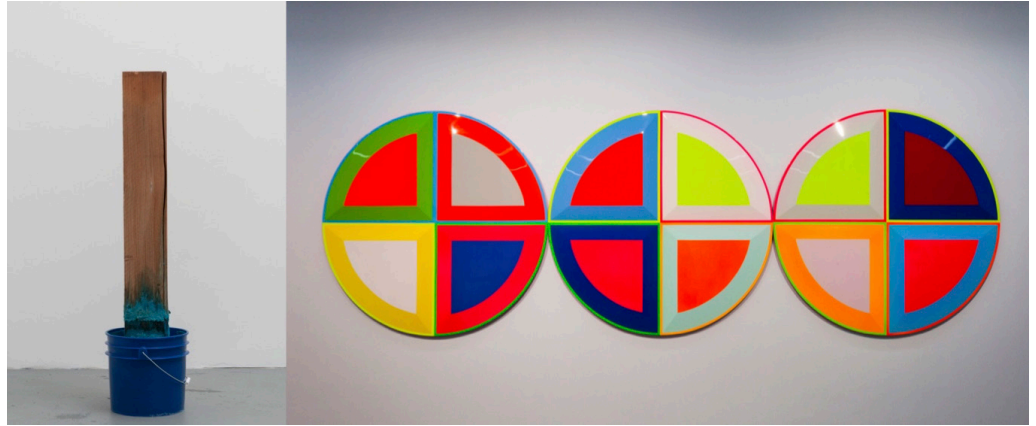


FRONT  
International  
Cleveland  
Triennial for  
Contemporary Art  
1460 West 29th  
Street  
Cleveland, OH



Left: Joe Smith, Untitled, 2012-2018. Wood, bucket and copper sulfate, 48.5 x 12 x 12 in. Photo by Ben Plattes  
Right: Beverly Fishman Untitled (ADHD), 2016. Urethane paint on wood, 60" x 180" x 2.25". Courtesy of the artist and Kavi Gupta

## FRONT International: Cleveland Triennial for Contemporary Art announces details of Great Lakes Research initiative

Exhibition to open at the Cleveland Institute of Art

July 14–September 30, 2018

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



CLEVELAND, Ohio (Monday, May 14, 2018) – Twenty-one artists from cities surrounding the Great Lakes will have works on view in The Great Lakes Research, one of the many events that comprise FRONT International: Cleveland Triennial for Contemporary Art.

The triennial is a summerlong exhibition of contemporary art from around the world taking place July 14 through September 30, 2018. The Great Lakes Research will continue to be on view through October 7, 2018 at the Cleveland Institute of Art's Reinberger Gallery.

The Great Lakes Research exhibition follows a yearlong tour of artist studios in the region by FRONT Artistic Director Michelle Grabner. The exhibition considers a local geographic home within the context of the international exhibition, reclaiming regionalism as a vital means of identifying and prioritizing cultural centers.

While the subcultures, histories, idioms, and dialects differ between Toronto and Minneapolis, Chicago and Cleveland, Milwaukee and Detroit, these cities' physical and psychological distances from coastal cultural hub cities unite their diverse cultural output.

The Great Lakes Research celebrates the curatorial practice of the studio visit, which reinforces the importance of local cultural fieldwork. In the process of selection, Grabner visited numerous studios to investigate and inform a group of works by artists who shape local and regional cultural patterns. Many of them have been pivotal as teachers and mentors in forming the practices of young artists. They advance alternative geographic and theoretical positions and recognize regional discourses as legitimate while nurturing creative practices that work within a global framework.

This group exhibition will feature:

**Toronto:** Alan Belcher, Paul P., and Scott Treleven

**Milwaukee:** Microlights and Paul Druecke

**Chicago:** Nate Young, Jessica Stockholder, Diane Simpson, Anne Wilson, and Rebecca Shore

**Minneapolis/St. Paul:** Joe Smith, Pao Her, and Bruce Tapola

**Detroit:** Beverly Fishman and James Benjamin Franklin

**Cleveland:** Christian Wulffen, Erin Duhigg, Amber Kempthorn, and Darius Steward

**Kent, Ohio:** Gianna Commito and Scott Olson

FRONT's website includes information on all the artists who participated in the Great Lakes Research studio visits and serves as a resource and archive, lauding examples of the cultural work shaping the cities dotting the Great Lakes watershed.





An American City

Eleven Cultural Exercises

"I am tremendously proud of CIA's partnership in FRONT as we host *The Great Lakes Research* exhibition in Reinberger Gallery," said Grafton J. Nunes, President and CEO of the Cleveland Institute of Art. "For 135 years, our faculty and alumni have influenced the cultural conversation at every level: regional, national and international. Likewise, our students are beneficiaries of a worldly sensibility and of a cultural perspective that grows organically from our region."

Along with the Great Lakes Research exhibition, related artist talks and gallery tours will take place at the Cleveland Institute of Art.

### **PRESS INQUIRIES**

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Join the conversation: #FRONTart2018

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### **Notes to the Editor:**

#### **About FRONT**

FRONT International: Cleveland Triennial for Contemporary Art is an exhibition comprised of artist commissions, performances, films, and public programs that will launch its inaugural edition in July of 2017. An American City: Eleven Cultural Exercises, in collaboration with museums, civic institutions, and alternative spaces across Cleveland, Akron and Oberlin, will showcase an ambitious roster of projects, including performance and theater throughout the landscape and built environment. With a roster of national, international and area-based artists at all points in their career, FRONT will examine the ever-changing and politically urgent conditions of an American city.

#### **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

Case Western Reserve University

Cleveland Clinic

Cleveland Institute of Art

Cleveland Museum of Art

Cleveland Public Library

Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland  
Hingetown, Ohio City, Cleveland  
The FRONT Porch, PNC Glenville Arts Campus  
MOCA Cleveland  
Playhouse Square  
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

### Leadership

#### **Fred Bidwell, Executive Director**

Fred Bidwell is a philanthropist, collector and community leader. After a 35-year career as an advertising and marketing entrepreneur, in 2011, he and his wife established the Fred and Laura Ruth Bidwell Foundation. In 2013, they founded the Transformer Station, a contemporary art 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 served twice as board president of the Akron Art Museum and currently on the board of the Cleveland Museum of Art and on the Visiting Committee of the Allen Memorial Art Museum.

#### **Michelle Grabner, Artistic Director**

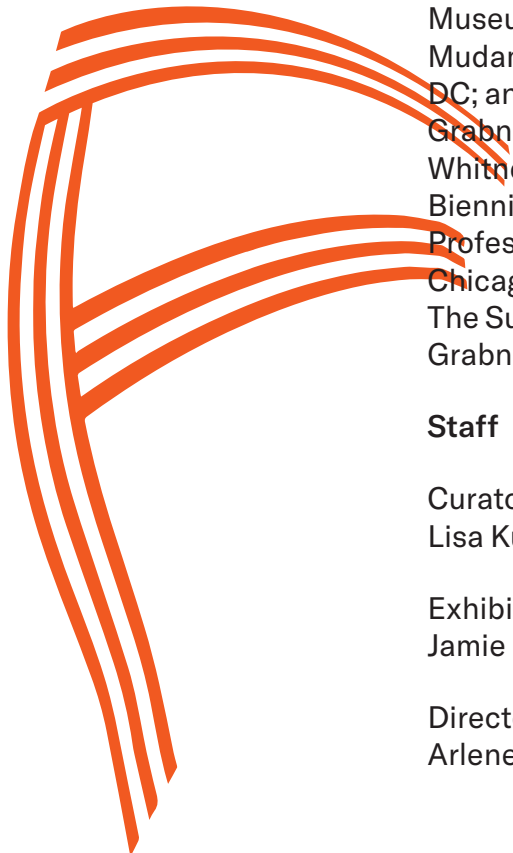
Michelle Grabner is a celebrated American artist. Her work is in the collections of the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Milwaukee Art Museum; Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; DaimlerChrysler Collection, Berlin; Mudam Luxembourg; Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC; and the Victoria and 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.

### Staff

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Exhibition Director  
Jamie Hardis

Director of Public Programs and Engagement  
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An American City

Eleven Cultural Exercises

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