

For immediate release

dallas BIENNALE

DALLAS CONTEMPORARY ANNOUNCES THE FIRST AND ONLY

DALLAS BIENNALE

April 13 – August 19, 2012

19 Artists From 9 Countries Will Present Works Across the City

Dallas, Texas (February 27, 2012)—The Dallas Biennale is a new forum for contemporary art which proposes a conceptual exploration of the biennale as a platform for exhibiting art. It is organized by Dallas Contemporary, regarded as “America’s Kunsthalle”. Taking place in various locations in Dallas’ city center and design district, it will be shaped by the concepts of curator Florence Ostende, a Paris-based adjunct curator for Dallas Contemporary, who was appointed to create a dialogue among the city of Dallas, audiences for contemporary art, and a large number of international artists. Locations for the Dallas Biennale include: Dallas Contemporary, Neiman Marcus (Main Street), Dallas Art Fair, Goss-Michael Foundation, the Oliver Francis Gallery, and the Nasher Sculpture Center.

This is the first large-scale survey exhibition of international artists to be presented by Dallas Contemporary to audiences in Dallas and across the country. The Dallas Biennale is intended to be a survey of international scope. However, it is not an exhibition that revives the encyclopedic format of other grand international surveys. Rather, it is a critique of them. The exhibition is intended to ignite larger intellectual discussions surrounding international biennales. The focus of this one and only Dallas Biennale (and its ironic title), is to highlight each artist with a large space to exhibit his or her work, from photography to performance. No overarching theme will exist. The exhibition marks a return to early biennale principals of celebrating artistic ideas.

All work included in the Biennale is original and has been made specifically for the exhibition. The 19 artists selected for the Biennale incorporate themes about the power of large-scale exhibitions such as biennales, viewed from an early 21st century perspective. For some artists in the exhibition, the clichéd concept of the curated, multi-venue, institutional exhibition dominates their ideas and art, while others take a more individual, existential approach to their work.

The Dallas Biennale highlights international contemporary art with the inclusion of artists from Asia, Europe, and North and South America. Capturing the cultural, social, and political aspects of a large city, works in the exhibition include installation, painting, sculpture, photography, and video.

Artists in the exhibition are: Morehshin Allahyari (Iran); Nick Barbee (USA); Anthea Behm (Australia); Kim Beom (Korea); Michael Corris (USA); Zoe Crosher (USA); Sylvie Fleury (Switzerland); Pierre Joseph (France); Claude Leveque (France); Chloé Maillet and Louise Hervé (France); Gabriel Martinez (USA); Nicole Miller (USA); Charlotte Moth (United Kingdom); Hugues Reip (France); Delphine Reist (Switzerland); Michael Smith (USA); Mario Garcia Torres (Mexico); and Clarissa Tossin (Brazil).

Regarding the concept for the Biennale, Ostende states, “The Dallas Biennale is a discourse concerning past, present, and future exhibition practices, along with a large-scale, city-wide, international exhibition as context for those discussions. Each of the 19 artists will have his or her own exhibition spaces to show work especially commissioned by the Dallas Biennale. Realizing the present moment, the Dallas Biennale will look back to the glory days of past biennales from the 1960s and 1970s and create a unique 21st century outlook for the future. Gone are the heavy and myopic curatorial themes. Artists and their projects are now the only focal point.”

About Florence Ostende

Florence Ostende has recently organized the exhibitions: *L'Institut des Archives Sauvages* (Villa Arson, Nice, 2012), David Jablonowski (Dallas Contemporary, 2012), *Qui admirez-vous?* (La Box, Bourges, 2011), *Prendre la porte et faire le mur* (FRAC PACA, Marseille, 2010), *La Famille Farrell* (Maison Populaire, Montreuil, and Mains d'Œuvres, Saint-Ouen, 2010). Ostende was a curator in residence at Le Pavillon, Palais de Tokyo (2009-2010). She holds MA degrees in Curating Contemporary Art (Royal College of Art, London), Art History (Université Paris IV Paris-Sorbonne), and English Literature (Université de Provence). Florence Ostende is currently conducting research for the Louis Vuitton Foundation art collection in Paris.

About Dallas Contemporary

Dallas Contemporary is a non-collecting art museum presenting new and challenging ideas from regional, national, and international artists. The institution is committed to engaging the public through exhibitions, lectures, educational programs, and events.

Dates for Dallas Biennale

Neiman Marcus (March 29 – April 29, 2012)
Dallas Art Fair (April 12 – 15, 2012)
Goss-Michael Foundation (April 13 – August 19, 2012)
Dallas Contemporary (April 13 – August 19, 2012)
Design District area (TBA, 2012)
Oliver Francis Gallery (April 13 – May 5, 2012)

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