

aspenartmuseum

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Photo: Mario Sorrenti

ASPEN ART MUSEUM ANNOUNCES ARTIST TOM SACHS AS 2012 ASPEN AWARD FOR ART HONOREE

AWARD TO BE PRESENTED DURING MUSEUM'S ANNUAL ARTCRUSH GALA ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 2012

ASPEN, CO—The Aspen Art Museum is proud to announce the selection of renowned American artist **Tom Sachs** as the recipient of the museum's **2012 Aspen Award for Art**. The award will be presented on **Friday, August 3, 2012**, during the museum's 8th annual **ArtCrush summer benefit gala**. The Aspen Award for Art is given each year to an artist who has made a significant contribution to the field of contemporary art. Past artist honorees Roni Horn (2011), Marilyn Minter (2010), Fred Tomaselli (2009), Ed Ruscha (2008), Jim Hodges (2007), Tony Feher (2006), and Richard Tuttle (2005).

On Friday, August 3, 2012, the Aspen Art Museum will host its annual summer benefit gala, with over 350 of the world's top art collectors, wine connoisseurs, artists, gallery owners, curators, celebrities, and global business leaders, who will come together in Aspen for three days of events to celebrate the Aspen Art Museum. ArtCrush is chaired by veteran Chair and AAM National Council member **Amy Phelan** and, for the 6th consecutive year, the AAM will partner with presenting sponsor **Sotheby's**.

The **2011 ArtCrush** event raised a total of \$1.7 million total toward funding the AAM's contemporary visual art programming. The live auction alone raised \$842,000, which,

along with the evening's silent lots of contemporary art, and fine wine tasting, helped reach the total.

In August 2011, the Aspen Art Museum broke ground on **new 30,000-square-foot building in downtown Aspen designed by Shigeru Ban**, with 12,500 square feet of exhibition space, and a rooftop sculpture garden with "walkable" skylights. Construction of the new Museum commences in this spring, with a projected opening date in early 2014. The AAM will continue its programming of internationally significant contemporary art at its current location throughout the construction of the new building.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Tom Sachs is a sculptor, installation artist, and painter known for his innovative examination and questioning of icons of capitalist culture and systems of daily life. Evident in Sachs' practice at-large are conceptual underpinning that address both serious and profound issues and call special attention to the commodification of abstract concepts. Through such works as *HG, (Hermes Hand Grenade)*, 1995, and *Chanel Guillotine (Breakfast Nook)*, 1998, and his re-imagined living systems, Sachs provokes reflection on utopian follies and dystopian realities. His work has been included in many exhibitions in the U.S. and abroad, and is featured in the collections of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Centre Georges Pompidou, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and the Astrup Fearnley Museet for Moderne Kunst, Oslo. Sachs has had solo exhibitions of his work at the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum (2009), Fondazione Prada, Milan (2006), Deutsche Guggenheim, Berlin (2003), the Bohlen Foundation, New York (2002), and SITE Santa Fe (1999).

From May 16 through June 17, 2012, Sachs will present his *SPACE PROGRAM: MARS*, an immersive installation within the Park Avenue Armory's 55,000-square-foot Wade Thompson Drill Hall in New York City. Sachs' first *SPACE PROGRAM* installation launched in 2007 with a "mission to the moon" at Gagosian Gallery in Los Angeles, which was a reimagining of the first moon landing in 1969.

Born in New York in 1966, Sachs studied at the Architectural Association in London and received a B.A. from Bennington College, Vermont, in 1989. He currently lives and works in New York. Sachs is represented by Sperone Westwater, New York; Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, Paris; and Aspen's Baldwin Gallery.

The Aspen Art Museum is a non-collecting institution presenting the newest, most important evolutions in international contemporary art. Our innovative and timely exhibitions, education and public programs, immersive activities, and community happenings actively engage audiences in thought-provoking experiences of art, culture, and society.

AAM MUSEUM HOURS:

Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; Thursday's 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, noon to 6:00 p.m.

Closed Mondays and major holidays
Visit the AAM online: www.aspenartmuseum.org

AAM ADMISSION IS FREE courtesy of John and Amy Phelan

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