

GUGGENHEIM

NEWS RELEASE

GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM ANNOUNCES WINNERS FOR ROB PRUITT'S 2010 ART AWARDS

Pruitt's Second Annual Performance-Based Artwork Presented 15 Awards in Contemporary Art Including Lifetime Achievement for Jonas Mekas and Martha Rosler, and Artist-Educator Achievement to Marilyn Minter at a Ceremony on December 8

(NEW YORK, NY – December 9, 2010) – At an awards ceremony and dinner on December 8, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum announced the winners of Rob Pruitt's *2010 Art Awards*, the second annual celebration honoring notable individuals, exhibitions, and projects that made a significant contribution to the field of contemporary art during the past year. Awards in 15 categories were presented at a fundraising event benefiting the Guggenheim Foundation and visual arts nonprofit White Columns on Wednesday, December 8, 2010, at the nightclub and music venue Webster Hall.

Artist Rob Pruitt, whose conceptual practice is rooted in a pop sensibility and a playful critique of art-world structures, conceived the event as a performance-based artwork that follows the format of a Hollywood awards ceremony. Designed with a flourish of showbiz glamour, the *Art Awards* harness the energy and accomplishments of the international arts community while simultaneously supporting two of its institutions.

A group of more than 1,000 artists and arts professionals were invited to form an anonymous Art Awards Council to nominate and then vote upon four nominees in categories that focus primarily on exhibitions and projects that took place over the past year (July 2009 to July 2010), in the United States, as well as one category recognizing an international exhibition. The Rob Pruitt Award was decided solely by the artist. The winners for each category are:

Alternative Space of the Year

WINNER: Artists Space, New York

179 Canal, New York

Cleopatra's, Brooklyn, New York

Light Industry, Brooklyn, New York

Alternative Project of the Year

WINNER: INDEPENDENT, New York

Apartment Show, various locations, New York
edia Int'l Group, Foundation Barbin, New York
Jennifer Rubell, *Creation*, Performa 09, New York

Artist of the Year

WINNER: Louise Bourgeois

Marina Abramović
John Baldessari
Trisha Donnelly

Blogger or Critic of the Year

WINNER: Jerry Saltz

Howard Halle
Paddy Johnson
Linda Yablonsky

Curator of the Year

WINNER: Chrissie Iles

Massimiliano Gioni
Laura Hoptman
Neville Wakefield

Exhibition outside the United States

WINNER: *John Baldessari: Pure Beauty*, Tate Modern, London (in association with Los Angeles County Museum of Art)

Rosemarie Trockel: Deliquescence of the Mother, Kunsthalle Zürich

Felix Gonzalez-Torres: Specific Objects without Specific Form, Wiels Contemporary Art Centre, Brussels

Matthew Barney: Prayer Sheet with the Wound and the Nail, Schaulager, Basel

Group Show of the Year, Gallery

WINNER: *Primary Atmospheres: Works from California 1960–1970*, David Zwirner, New York

Lush Life, various locations, New York

Picture Industry (Goodbye to All That), Regen Projects, Los Angeles

Your History Is Not Our History: New York in the 1980s, Haunch of Venison, New York

Group Show of the Year, Museum

WINNER: *In & Out of Amsterdam: Travels in Conceptual Art, 1960–1976*, Museum of Modern Art, New York

At Home/Not At Home: Works from the Collection of Martin and Rebecca Eisenberg, Hessel Museum of Art, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York

Greater New York, MoMA P.S. 1, Long Island City, New York

2010 Whitney Biennial Exhibition, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

New Artist of the Year

WINNER: Tauba Auerbach

Michele Abeles
Liz Magic Laser
Ryan McNamara

The Rob Pruitt Award
WINNER: Lena Dunham

Solo Show of the Year, Gallery

WINNER: Trisha Donnelly, Casey Kaplan Gallery, New York

Claude Monet: Late Work, Gagosian Gallery, New York

Gelitin: Blind Sculpture, Greene Naftali Gallery, New York

Jonathan Horowitz: Go Vegan! Gavin Brown's Enterprise, New York

Solo Show of the Year, Museum

WINNER: Marina Abramović: *The Artist Is Present*, Museum of Modern Art, New York

Heat Waves in a Swamp: The Paintings of Charles Burchfield, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, and Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

Otto Dix, Neue Galerie, New York

Yves Klein: With the Void, Full Powers, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., and Walker Art Center, Minneapolis

In addition, Lifetime Achievement Awards were awarded to Jonas Mekas and Martha Rosler. The Artist-Educator Achievement Award, a new distinction added for this year's celebration, was presented to Marilyn Minter.

Writer, editor, and downtown fixture Glenn O'Brien presided over the event as the Master of Ceremonies. The event script was penned by Pruitt and O'Brien, along with writers David Colman, Amy Kellner, and Linda Yablonsky. The awards—black-and-white silk-screened paintings of an engraved trophy designed by Pruitt—were distributed by a distinguished cast of presenters, including Bill Powers, Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn, and Jerry Saltz of the Bravo television series *Work of Art*; musician Michael Stipe and Michael Ward Stout, President, Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation; Mary Heilmann, the 2009 "Artist of the Year"; artist Marina Abramović and Klaus Biesenbach, Director of MoMA P.S. 1; artists John Currin and Rachel Feinstein; artists Lizzie Bougatsos and Spencer Sweeney; Nancy Spector, Deputy Director and Chief Curator, Guggenheim Museum; and Matthew Higgs, Director, White Columns, among others.

The evening also featured performances by artists Martin Creed and Kalup Linzy. The commissioned *Art Awards* theme song and other original music were composed by Matthew Friedberger and His Orchestra, who played at the event. Tribute films created by Yorgo Alexopoulos were screened as part of the ceremony. Dinner was provided by Roberta's, of Bushwick, Brooklyn. Table décor was created by Pruitt along with fellow artists John Baldessari, Terence Koh, Jeff Koons, and Josh Smith. An after-party following the presentation featured music by Rub-N-Tug.

Proceeds from the 2010 Art Awards will benefit the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation and White Columns. Please visit guggenheim.org/artawards for further information. Video highlights from the ceremony will be posted a few weeks after the event.

About Rob Pruitt

Rob Pruitt (b. 1964, Washington, D.C.) lives and works in New York. His recent solo exhibitions include *Pattern and Degradation* (September–October 2010) at Gavin Brown’s Enterprise and Maccarone in New York; and *iPruitt* (2008) at Gavin Brown’s Enterprise. Institutions that have organized solo presentations of his work include the Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati (2001), and the American Academy in Rome (2008). He has also participated in numerous group exhibitions internationally, including *Greater New York*, P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center, Long Island City (2000); *Post-POP, Post-PUNK*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Washington, D.C. (2000); *Protest and Survive*, Whitechapel Art Gallery, London (2000); *Vantage Point*, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin (2001); *The Americans New Art*, Barbican Gallery, London (2001); Shanghai Biennale, Shanghai Art Museum (2002); *Trade*, White Columns, New York (2005); *Seeing Double*, Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh (2005); *General Ideas: Rethinking Conceptual Art 1987–2005*, CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco (2005); *The Inside Game*, Portland Art Center (2006); *The Station*, Art Basel Miami (2008); *Mapping the Studio*, Palazzo Grassi (2009); and *Pop Life: Art in a Material World*, Tate Modern, London (2009).

About the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation

Founded in 1937, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation is dedicated to promoting the understanding and appreciation of art, primarily of the modern and contemporary periods, through exhibitions, education programs, research initiatives, and publications. Currently the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation owns and operates the Guggenheim Museum on Fifth Avenue in New York and the Peggy Guggenheim Collection on the Grand Canal in Venice, and provides programming and management for the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao. The Deutsche Guggenheim in Berlin is the result of a collaboration, begun in 1997, between the Guggenheim Foundation and Deutsche Bank. In 2013 the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, a 452,000-square-foot museum of modern and contemporary art designed by Frank Gehry, will open on Saadiyat Island, adjacent to the main island of Abu Dhabi city, the capital of the United Arab Emirates.

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