

Foundation for Contemporary Arts

820 Greenwich Street
New York, New York 10014

Telephone 212 807-7077

Facsimile 212 807-7177

info@contemporary-arts.org

Contact: Sarah Rulfs
Email: sr@contemporary-arts.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FOUNDATION FOR CONTEMPORARY ARTS ANNOUNCES
GRANTS TO ARTISTS AND ROBERT RAUSCHENBERG AWARDS FOR 2014**

New York, NY, January 15, 2014 – Foundation for Contemporary Arts (FCA), is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2014 Grants to Artists awards. Fourteen unrestricted grants of \$30,000 each—a total of \$420,000—are to be made to individual artists and one collective in the United States.

Nominated confidentially by prominent artists and arts professionals and selected by the Directors of the Foundation and noted members of the arts community, the 2014 recipients are:

DANCE

Lance Gries, New York, NY
Trajal Harrell, New York, NY
Heather Kravas, Seattle, WA
Okwui Okpokwasili, Brooklyn, NY

MUSIC/SOUND

James Fei, Oakland, CA
Jeph Jerman, Cottonwood, AZ
John King, New York, NY

PERFORMANCE ART/THEATER

Black-Eyed Susan, New York, NY
Matthew Goulish and Lin Hixson, Chicago, IL
Annie-B Parson, Brooklyn, NY

POETRY

Ted Greenwald, New York, NY
Eileen Myles, New York, NY

VISUAL ARTS

Wardell Milan, New York, NY
Cauleen Smith, Chicago, IL

- more -

Established in 1993, Grants to Artists provides significant, unrestricted assistance to individual artists in all disciplines. Recipients are chosen annually through a confidential nomination and selection process. Once a year, a group of distinguished artists and arts professionals are invited to serve as nominators. A selection panel reviews nominations and chooses grantees on the basis of the merit and imaginativeness of their work and the effect such recognition and support might have at this point in their careers. Since 1993, FCA has disbursed \$3.6 million through Grants to Artists to support almost 250 artists from throughout the country and abroad.

The unrestricted cash awards are intended to provide recipients with the financial means to engage in whatever artistic endeavors they wish to pursue, to research and develop ideas, to embark on projects, and to complete projects already underway. Grants to Artists often serves as a catalyst that propels an artist into a new phase in their career. Because the awards are nominated and selected by respected members of the arts community, artists are also given an invaluable boost of confidence.

“Foundation for Contemporary Arts is pleased to announce its list of 2014 grantees, which includes groundbreaking artists in all disciplines,” said Stacy Tenenbaum Stark, Executive Director. “In recognition of our 50th anniversary, and the 20th anniversary of the Grants to Artists program, we have increased the amount of the awards from \$25,000 to \$30,000. For five decades, FCA has recognized and assisted some of the most talented and influential artists of our time, giving them time and space to experiment and grow their artistic practices.”

The Foundation has also awarded the second annual Robert Rauschenberg Award to composer **Elodie Lauten**. The Robert Rauschenberg Award was permanently endowed by The Robert Rauschenberg Foundation (RRF) in 2012 to honor the artist’s legacy of innovation, risk-taking, and experimentation. Rauschenberg was one of FCA’s original contributing artists and was generous to FCA throughout his life. Like the 2014 Grants to Artists awards, the Robert Rauschenberg Award is an unrestricted, \$30,000 award; it is FCA’s first endowed grant, inaugurated in 2013, and is awarded each year through the same confidential nomination process. For over three decades, Ms. Lauten has defied categorization as a composer. She has created work across genres including opera, electronic, vocal, chamber, and orchestral music.

FCA will publish a booklet profiling the 2014 grantees in March. Their curriculum vitae and other information will be available on FCA’s website at the same time.

Foundation for Contemporary Arts is the only organization of its kind created by artists to benefit artists; artists have always directed its activities, selected its grantees, and contributed work to

support its programs. FCA's mission is to encourage, sponsor, and promote innovative work in the arts created and presented by individuals, groups, and organizations. Artists working in dance, music/sound, performance art/theater, poetry, and the visual arts are awarded nonrestrictive grants to use at their own discretion; arts organizations receive project or general operating support by application; and a fund is maintained to help artists with work-related emergencies. Since FCA's inception in 1963, over 2,300 grants to artists and arts organizations—totaling nearly eleven million dollars—have provided opportunities for creative exploration and the realization of new work. Nearly 900 artists have donated work to raise funds for these grants.

The current Directors of the Foundation are: Brooke Alexander, Cecily Brown, Robert Gober, Anne Dias Griffin, Agnes Gund, Jasper Johns, Julian Lethbridge, Glenn Ligon, Kara Walker, and T.J. Wilcox. Members of the Board were joined in this year's grant selection process by the New Museum Keith Haring Director and Curator of Education and Public Engagement Johanna Burton, composer David Grubbs, Whitney Museum of American Art curator Jay Sanders, and playwright Mac Wellman. Advisors to the selection committee for the Poetry category were poets Peter Gizzi and Stacy Szymaszek.

###