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Foundation for Contemporary Arts

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For Immediate Release

www.foundationforcontemporaryarts.org

**Jasper Johns, Annie Leibovitz, Kara Walker, Nan Goldin,
Gregory Crewdson and Laurie Simmons Organize
“Photographic Works: To Benefit the Foundation for Contemporary Arts”**

December 11 – 20, 2008

**Opening Reception: Thursday, December 11, 6 to 8 pm
At Cohan and Leslie, New York**

Foundation for Contemporary Arts (FCA), a non-profit arts organization founded in 1963 by Jasper Johns and John Cage that provides grants to artists and arts organizations, is pleased to announce its 12th benefit exhibition. Organized by artists Gregory Crewdson, Nan Goldin, Jasper Johns, Annie Leibovitz, Julian Lethbridge, Laurie Simmons and Kara Walker, the “Photographic Works” exhibition will feature 200 photographs and photo-based work, including Polaroids, digital prints and video stills. All work will be available for sale. Proceeds will directly benefit the Foundation’s grant programs.

Founded and guided by artists, FCA has always been supported financially by a large community of artists, who have generously donated their work to be sold in FCA’s historic benefit exhibitions. Art dealers have shown their support by hosting FCA’s enormous exhibitions, where one is likely to find a Robert Rauschenberg next to work by an emerging talent.

“FCA is grateful to Andrew Leslie of Cohan and Leslie, and to the numerous artists who have contributed their work in support of emerging artists in all disciplines.” said Executive Director Stacy Stark. “Visual artists have supported FCA for over forty years by contributing works to our benefit exhibitions and thus supporting our grants to artists. This is our first exhibition to exclusively feature photographic works.”

Indeed, photographs by established artists will be hung alongside photographs and photo-based works of newcomers. In addition to photographic works by organizing artists Crewdson, Goldin, Leibovitz and Simmons, work by Diane Arbus, Matthew Barney, John Baldessari, Tacita Dean, Jeff Koons, Adam McEwen, Robert Gober, Karl Lagerfeld, Joel Meyerowitz, Robert Rauschenberg, Ed Ruscha, Cindy Sherman, Bert Stern, Massimo Vitali, Andy Warhol and Bruce Weber will be featured.

Foundation for Contemporary Arts encourages, sponsors and promotes innovative work in the arts created and presented by individuals, groups, and organizations. Through a nomination process, artists working in dance, music/sound, performance art/theater, poetry and the visual arts are awarded unrestricted grants for projects of their own choosing. Grants are also given to presenting and support organizations and a modest fund is maintained to help artists with unexpected emergencies. Over 600 artists have donated work to raise funds for its grant programs. Since its inception, FCA has awarded over \$6.3 million to support individual artists and arts organizations. In 2008, FCA has awarded nearly \$500,000. The current FCA Directors are: Brooke Alexander, Frances Fergusson, Agnes Gund, Jasper Johns, Julian Lethbridge and Kara Walker.

Exhibition:	Photographic Works: To Benefit the Foundation for Contemporary Arts
Dates:	December 11-20, 2008
Location:	Cohan and Leslie, 138 Tenth Avenue (18th Street), New York
Hours:	Tuesday – Saturday, 10 am – 6 pm
Contact:	Stacy Stark, 212 807-7077 or st@contemporary-arts.org

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About the Foundation for Contemporary Arts

Since its inception in 1963, the Foundation's mission has been to encourage, sponsor and promote innovative work in the arts created and presented by individuals, groups and organizations. Through a nomination process, individual artists, collectives and performing groups working in dance, music, performance art/theater, poetry and the visual arts are awarded unrestricted grants for projects of their own choosing. Grants are also given to presenting and support organizations and a modest fund is maintained to help artists with unexpected emergencies. FCA has provided hundreds of grants to artists and arts organizations, thus providing opportunities for creative exploration and development.

Foundation for Contemporary Arts (FCA) was established in 1963 through the efforts of artists Jasper Johns and John Cage in the belief that painters and sculptors were sufficiently concerned about the state of performance arts—dance, theater and music—to donate their work in support of performing artists. Willem de Kooning, Marcel Duchamp, Philip Guston, Alex Katz, Ellsworth Kelly, Roy Lichtenstein, Robert Motherwell, Barnett Newman, Claes Oldenburg, Robert Rauschenberg, Larry Rivers, Frank Stella and Andy Warhol were among the 78 artists who contributed to FCA's historic first benefit exhibition—the first fund-raising benefit of this kind. Proceeds from sales enabled FCA to launch a significant program of assistance for performing artists who were engaged in work of a contemporary nature. To date, over 600 visual artists have supported FCA's grants programs with major gifts of paintings, sculptures, drawings and prints contributed to the eleven benefit exhibitions held over the years.

Originally known as the Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts, FCA has operated continuously since the 1960s and was founded before the creation of government agencies such as NEA and NYSCA.

During its first year, FCA made grants to composers Earle Brown and Morton Feldman, and underwrote a concert of their music presented at Town Hall in New York. Additional grants went to Judson Memorial Church, the Paper Bag Players and choreographer Merle Marsicano. Other early grantees included choreographers Trisha Brown, Lucinda Childs, Meredith Monk, Yvonne Rainer and Twyla Tharp, and composers Cornelius Cardew, Philip Glass and Steve Reich.

In the early 1990s, FCA chose to provide more significant sums to artists for the realization of ongoing work by awarding fewer, more substantial grants to individuals and groups through a nomination process. It was at this time that FCA expanded its grant-making to include visual artists. FCA has provided hundreds of grants to artists and arts organizations, thus providing opportunities for creative exploration and development. To date, over 600 visual artists have supported FCA's grants programs with major gifts of paintings, sculptures,

drawings and prints contributed to the eleven fund-raising exhibitions held over the years. Since its inception, FCA has held eleven benefit exhibitions. The first fund-raising exhibition of paintings and sculptures was held at Allan Stone Gallery in 1963. A number of significant benefit exhibitions followed: "Drawings, 1965," simultaneously shown at Leo Castelli, Tibor De Nagy and Kornblee galleries; a print exhibition at Kornblee Gallery in 1967; the 1980 "Drawings" show at Leo Castelli; "Eight Lithographs," published by Gemini G.E.L. in 1981, shown at Leo Castelli; "25th Anniversary Exhibition," jointly shown at Brooke Alexander and Leo Castelli in 1988; "30th Anniversary Exhibition of Drawings" at Leo Castelli in 1993; "Prints" at Brooke Alexander in 1995; "Drawings & Photographs" at Matthew Marks in 2000; and most recently, "Young Artists" at Bortolami Dayan and "Posters" at Paula Cooper, both in 2006.

Grants and Awards Programs

FCA awards grants in the following fields: dance, music/sound, performance art/theater, poetry and the visual arts. Grants are awarded annually to outstanding or unusually promising artists and arts organizations which create, present or support imaginative work and need this kind of assistance.

Grants to Artists are chosen by a confidential nomination and selection process. Each year FCA invites a pool of distinguished artists and arts professionals to serve as nominators. Nominators may propose up to three exceptional individuals, artists' collectives or performing groups whom they feel deserve and will benefit from an unrestricted \$25,000 award. Nominators are selected by field, but are free to propose artists working in or among any of the five areas supported. They are asked to remain anonymous. A selection panel chooses recipients 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. Although most artists who receive support live and work in the United States, *Grants to Artists* may be awarded internationally. The number of selections made in any of the five fields is determined by the strength of the candidates and FCA's resources in any given year. These 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, embark on projects, and complete projects already under way.

Emergency Grants. Discretionary grants subject to timely review are awarded on an ongoing basis to emerging artists and collectives in need of modest, urgent support. The only program of its kind, *Emergency Grants* assists artists with unexpected expenses when projects are close to completion or with sudden opportunities to present work to the public. *Emergency Grants* are limited in number and modest in amount. Requests are reviewed monthly by a volunteer panel of established artists.

Grants to Organizations. Organizations that provide visual and performing artists with opportunities to present their work to the public, or offer artists professional services, may apply annually for assistance. Such grants are awarded on an annual basis and usually range between \$1,000 and \$2,000.

The **John Cage Award** was established in 1992 in honor of the late composer, and one of our founders. This prestigious award is made biennially in recognition of outstanding achievement in the performing arts. Selections are made from invited nominations. The 2008 John Cage Award was \$50,000.