

Foundation for Contemporary Arts

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**FOUNDATION FOR CONTEMPORARY ARTS ANNOUNCES
GRANTS TO ARTISTS AND ROBERT RAUSCHENBERG AWARDS FOR 2015**

New York, NY, January 5, 2015 – Foundation for Contemporary Arts (FCA) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2015 Grants to Artists awards. Fourteen unrestricted grants of \$35,000 each—a total of \$490,000—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 2015 recipients are:

DANCE

BodyCartography Project, Minneapolis, MN
Melanie Maar, Brooklyn, NY
Will Rawls, Brooklyn, NY

MUSIC/SOUND

Ellen Fullman, Berkeley, CA
Zach Layton, Troy, NY
Missy Mazzoli, Brooklyn, NY

PERFORMANCE ART/THEATER

Mallory Catlett, New York, NY
Jim Findlay, Brooklyn, NY
Cynthia Hopkins, Brooklyn, NY

POETRY

Julie Patton, New York, NY
Tony Towle, New York, NY

VISUAL ARTS

David Diao, New York, NY
David Hartt, Chicago, IL
Xaviera Simmons, Brooklyn, NY

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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 \$4.5 million through Grants to Artists to support more than 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 continue its legacy of artists helping artists," said Stacy Stark, Executive Director. "With proceeds from our 51st Anniversary Benefit Exhibition, we have increased the grants from \$30,000 to \$35,000 this year. The contributions of artists to the exhibition directly support the Foundation's 2015 grantees, who are themselves groundbreaking artists in all disciplines." The exhibition is on view at Matthew Marks Gallery through January 10, 2015; more information is available at www.foundationforcontemporaryarts.org.

The Foundation has also awarded the third annual Robert Rauschenberg Award to composer **Eve Beglarian**. 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 2015 Grants to Artists awards, the Robert Rauschenberg Award is an unrestricted, \$35,000 award; it is FCA's first endowed grant, inaugurated in 2013, and is awarded each year through the same confidential nomination process. Throughout her career, Ms. Beglarian has defied categorization as a composer. She has created work across genres including electronic, vocal, chamber, and orchestral music. In 2009, she traveled down the Mississippi River by kayak and bicycle, and collaborated with local musicians along the way. She has documented and explored this journey in much of her recent work.

FCA will publish a booklet profiling the 2015 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. Since its inception in 1963, FCA's mission has been to encourage, sponsor, and promote innovative work in the arts created and presented by individuals, groups, and organizations. Its legacy continues today with unrestricted, by-nomination grants supporting pioneering work across the fields of dance, music/sound, performance art/theater, poetry, and the visual arts. In addition to vital financial assistance, grantees receive the inestimable encouragement that comes with recognition by their peers. A fund is also maintained to assist artists with emergencies and unexpected opportunities related to their work. More than 2,300 grants awarded to artists and arts organizations—totaling over \$11 million—have provided opportunities for creative exploration and development. Over 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 Kimberly Bartosik, Stefan Kalmár, Brian Rogers, and Julia Wolfe. Advisors to the selection committee for the Poetry category were poets Erica Hunt and Vincent Katz.

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