

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec 2, 2013

The Contemporary Relaunches Website and Announces Initial Plans & Programming.

Baltimore, MD—The Contemporary, formerly the Contemporary Museum, will relaunch its website and announce initial programming on December 3, 2013 at 8am EST. The Contemporary has spent the past eighteen months deconstructing and re-envisioning the museum's operating infrastructure and programming methodologies.

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For the launch, The Contemporary will make public its mission, history, staff, board, and relationship to other local institutions. Additionally it will announce future project and public programming initiatives, it's Curatorial Advisory Council, and first four public events.

MISSION

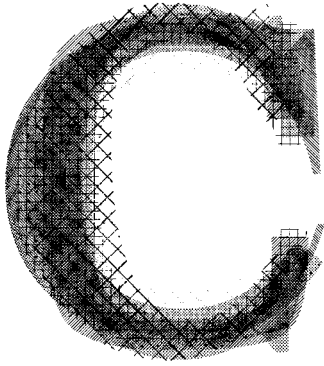
The Contemporary is a nomadic, non-collecting art museum in Baltimore, Maryland. Our mission expands the idea of a museum as an incubator that commissions site-specific and subject-oriented projects. We engage diverse audiences and advance contemporary art through projects and educational programming. Our work is inspired by three guiding principles: *artists matter, collaboration is key, and audience is everywhere.*

HISTORY

In 1989, Baltimore curator George Ciscle founded the Contemporary in order to foster meaningful exchanges between artists, institutions, and diverse audiences. This nomadic institution quickly developed a reputation for delivering unexpected, challenging, and inspiring encounters with contemporary art by notable artists such as Willie Cole, Alison Saar, and Fred Wilson.

During its first decade, the Contemporary was “dedicated to redefining the concept of the museum.” It moved around the city of Baltimore, sponsoring exhibitions and projects in a variety of borrowed venues such as warehouses, car dealerships, and bus stations, as well as collaborating with partnering institutions such as the Baltimore Museum of Art, Maryland Historical Society, Peabody Conservatory, and Walters Art Museum.

Because of the variety and ambition of its projects, programs, and operations, the Contemporary's mission was continuously reviewed, adapted, and reinvented under various directors: Gary Sangster, Thom Collins, Irene Hofmann, and Sue Spaid. Thus the organization's profile has continuously evolved in its 24-year history.



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In 1999, The Contemporary rebranded as the Contemporary Museum and moved to 100 W. Centre Street, one block from the Walters Art Museum in the Mount Vernon neighborhood of downtown Baltimore. It organized exhibitions and related programming in that location for nearly ten years and worked with artists such as Dawoud Bey, Chris Burden, Dara Birnbaum, Louise Bourgeois, Futurefarmers, Ellen Gallagher, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Isaac Julien, Christian Marclay, and Soledad Salamé. In 2011, the museum moved out of the W. Centre Street space and returned to the process of facilitating projects in neighboring institutions and buildings.

At a critical juncture, and consistent with the belief that the mission should be subject to review, the Board of Trustees suspended operations in May of 2012. An intensive reassessment process followed, ultimately leading to the reinstatement of the institution's original vision of redefining the museum and the creation of a bold new organizational model.

Today, The Contemporary is a museum that willfully operates without a permanent collection or a building. Instead, we work with curators, both in Baltimore and beyond, to commission site- and situation-specific art projects that engage, challenge, and awe the people of Baltimore. We collaborate with different institutions, organizations, and individuals to offer dynamic programming that is tailored to both artists and the general public.

LOCATION & COLLECTION

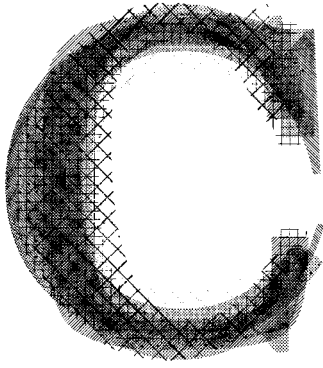
The Contemporary does not have a permanent home or collection. The Contemporary is a nomadic and non-collecting museum so that our resources can stay dedicated to our dynamic programming and project commissions, which are constantly evolving and focused on bringing to fruition the most innovative and exciting art of our time.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LOCAL INSTITUTIONS

The Contemporary is eager to form strong partnerships with existing, arts and non-arts institutions to support our collaborative methodology and enhance institutional support in Baltimore.

STAFF & BOARD

The Contemporary currently has one full-time staff person, Director **Deana Haggag**, with plans of expanding to a modest staff in the future. Deana Haggag has been with The Contemporary since the spring of 2013. Prior to her work with The Contemporary, she was the Curator-in-Residence at Gallery CA, which is also located in Baltimore, MD in the City Arts building — home to over 90 artists. Deana received her MFA in Curatorial Practice from the Maryland Institute College of Art and a BA from Rutgers University in Art History and Philosophy. In addition to her work at The Contemporary, Deana curates independent exhibitions, consults on various public art initiatives, and contributes to cultural publications. She is on the board of Whoop Dee Doo, Station North Tool Library, and is the Dean of the Baltimore Chapter of the Awesome Foundation. Deana was named "10 People to Watch Under 30" by the Baltimore Sun in 2013.



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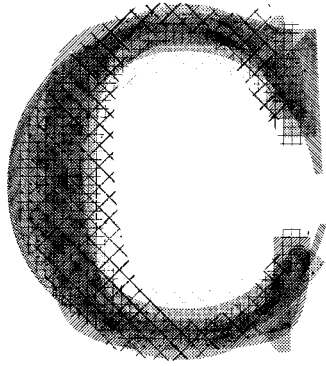
The Contemporary currently has 19 Board Trustees. They are: **Terry Squyres** (*President*; Principal Architect, GWWO), **Ray Allen** (*Vice President*; Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, MICA), **Doug Bothner** (*Vice President*; Senior Associate, Ziger/Snead Architects), **Karen Stults** (*Vice President*; Director of Community Engagement, MICA), **Deana Haggag** (*Secretary*; Director, The Contemporary), **Jessica Lanzillotti** (*Treasurer*; General Manager, Everyman Theatre), **Tamar Cloyd** (Fundraising & Communications Consultant, The Cloyd Group), **Jeffrey Cudlin** (Artist / Faculty, MICA (Curatorial Studies & Practice), **Sarva Girdhar** (Physician, Carroll Surgical Specialists), **Joanna Golden** (Owner, Pie in the Sky Aspen), **William Goldiner** (Physician for Orioles, Art Collector), **Lionel Foster** (Communications Manager, Urban Institute DC), **Stanton Johnson** (Associate Attorney, Venable LLP), **Joyce Yu-Jean Lee** (Artist / Part-time Faculty, MICA & Corcoran), **Bodil Ottesen** (Art Historian / Faculty, MICA & UMBC), **Debra Rubino** (Director of Strategic Communications, Open Society Foundations), **Lynn Warfield** (Co-owner, Citybizlist), **Portia Wood** (Assistant State's Attorney, Baltimore City), **Robin Zimelman** (Art Collector, Retired Tax Attorney for Venable LLP).

PROJECTS & CURATORIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Contemporary believes that art belongs in all aspects of society because it is a catalyst for creative thinking and innovation. We are committed to commissioning site-specific and subject-oriented projects that exist in public space and are in collaboration with other existing, arts and non-arts institutions and organizations.

We are, at our core, a presenting institution that is invested in working with artists to incubate innovative projects and re-contextualize existing works that speak to many diverse audiences. We believe that contemporary art embodies a tremendous range of identities and we will continue our tradition of working with local, regional, national, and international artists at all stages of their careers. In keeping with our desire to dissolve boundaries, we will expand our programming by reaching out to creative minds in non-arts fields; architects, engineers, philosophers and more will play an important part in our project development and public programming. We're forever committed to remaining nimble and forward thinking. *We will be announcing our upcoming projects soon.*

During our re-envisioning, we decided to eliminate the concept of a resident curator. By removing the weight given to a single individual's curatorial preferences and style, The Contemporary was able to create a system as dynamic as our mission. We're excited to have assembled a national team of brilliant minds with diverse creative backgrounds to advise and guide our programming. In this way, collaboration is assured to be the guiding force in all aspects of our methodology.



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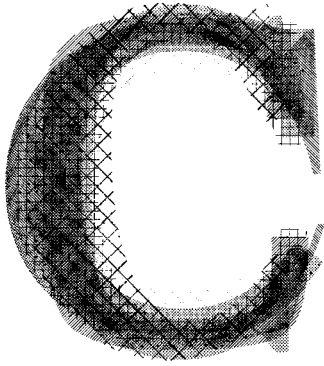
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Each Curatorial Advisory Council member serves a term of 1-3 years. There are currently six members and they include **Elissa Blount-Moorhead**, who is a Brooklyn based exhibition designer, Curator and lecturer who has developed public art events, gallery based exhibitions, and education programs for the last 20 years. She currently teaches at Parsons Graduate School of Design at Cooper Hewitt. **Emily Blumenthal**, who is the Senior Educator for Family, Teen, and Multigenerational Learning at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Prior to joining the Met, she served as the Head of Family and Community Programs at the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, MD. **Thom Collins**, who is an arts administrator, art historian, educator and author with more than 15 years of experience in museum leadership, joined Miami Art Museum as director in 2010. Prior to joining the Miami Art Museum, Collins served as director of the Neuberger Museum of Art in Westchester County, New York, for five years. Collins has also previously served as director of the Contemporary Museum in Baltimore, Maryland, 2003–2005 and chief curator at the Contemporary Arts Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, 2000-2003. **Tom Finkelppearl**, who is the Executive Director of the Queens Museum of Art. Prior to his work at the Queens Museum of Art he spent 12 years at PS.1 Contemporary Art Center where he organized 15 exhibitions in the 1980's, returning in 1999 as Deputy Director and working on the organization's merger with the Museum of Modern Art. **Rick Lowe**, who is a visual artist, community organizer, and creator of Project Row Houses an arts and cultural community located in Houston, Texas. In 2013 Rick Lowe was appointed by the Obama Administration to serve on the National Council on the Arts. He has participated in national and international art exhibitions and programs since 1995. **Shamim M. Momin**, who is the Director, Curator, and co-founder of LAND (Los Angeles Nomadic Division), a non-profit public art organization committed to curating site- and situation-specific contemporary art projects, in Los Angeles and beyond. Previous to founding LAND, Momin was Associate Curator at the Whitney Museum of American Art where she co-curated both the 2008 and 2004 Whitney Biennial exhibitions, as well as numerous solo exhibitions.

SPEAKER SERIES

The Contemporary will organize an annual Speaker Series because visiting artists play an important role in public understanding and education of contemporary art. Our annual Speaker Series brings internationally recognized artists, critics, and art professionals as a way to share their practices, inspire, awe, and challenge Baltimore audiences. In the spirit of furthering the contemporary art dialogue, each speaker also conducts studio visits with local artists.

The 2014 Speaker Series, *CoHosts*, will be presented at the Baltimore School for the Arts and cohosted with thirteen local commercial, artist-run, and independent galleries. Each gallery responded to a simple question: *Who is the one artist or art professional that you want The Contemporary to bring to Baltimore?* Each gallery will cohost a residency for their selected speaker and identify local artists for their respective studio visits.



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The 2015 Speaker Series, *Talking Shop*, will partner acclaimed artists and non-arts professionals from various disciplines to discuss the nexus of art and science, technology, politics, and more. Stay tuned for more details!

The 2016 Speaker Series, *Throwbacks*, will invite back artists that have shown and worked with The Contemporary in the past. Our history is robust and we are eager to explore it. Stay tuned for more details!

The first four *CoHost* lectures of 2014 will be: **Coco Fusco & Guest Spot on January 13, Nick Cave & Pinebox Art Center on February 18, Brendan Fowler & Nudashank on March 5, Wayne White & Gallery CA on March 27.** All lectures begin at 7pm EST with a reception at 6pm EST and are free and open to the public.

Coco Fusco is a New York-based interdisciplinary artist and writer. She is a recipient of a 2013 Guggenheim Fellowship, a 2013 Fulbright Fellowship, a 2012 US Artists Fellowship and a 2003 Herb Alpert Award in the Arts. **GUEST SPOT** is an independently run artist exhibition space in Baltimore, Md. The unique curatorial program focuses on ideas

Nick Cave is a Messenger, Artist and Educator working between the visual and performing arts through a wide range of mediums inclusive of sculpture, installation, video, sound and performance. He is best known for his Sound Suits. **Pinebox Art Center** was founded in 2012 and operates as a diverse, cultural, community center, engaging both the Highlandtown Arts District and the greater Baltimore community. They provide local artists with affordable workspace to further develop their practice through our studio center program.

Brendan Fowler is a visual artist who has exhibited in galleries and museums internationally, among them Rivington Arms, Untitled and The New Museum in New York, MoMa, The Aspen Museum, A Palazzo in Italy, Gallerie Thadeus Ropac in Paris. **Nudashank** is an independent, artist-run gallery space in Baltimore, Maryland dedicated to showcasing young and emerging artists. Founded by Seth Adelsberger and Alex Ebstein in March of 2009.

Wayne White is an American artist, art director, illustrator, puppeteer, and is most widely known as a painter. He also worked in the music video industry, winning Billboard and MTV Music Video Awards as an art director for seminal music videos including The Smashing Pumpkins' 'Tonight, Tonight' and Peter Gabriel's 'Big Time.' **Gallery CA** is a contemporary arts space devoted to showcasing local, regional, national and international artists. The gallery also serves as an agent for community engagement by offering regular programming and creating sustainable partnerships with local arts institutions and community organizations.