



Smithsonian
***Donald W. Reynolds Center for
American Art and Portraiture***

Smithsonian American Art Museum

News

Media only: Laura Baptiste (202) 633-8494
Amy Hutchins (202) 633-8497

July 31, 2007

Media Web site: americanart.si.edu/press

Smithsonian American Art Museum Announces 2007 Nominees for Its Annual Contemporary Artist Award

The Smithsonian American Art Museum announced today (July 31) the nominees for the museum's 2007 Lucelia Artist Award. The 13 nominees are Cory Arcangel, Bernadette Corporation, Tom Friedman, Gajin Fujita, Rachel Harrison, Glenn Ligon, Fabian Marcaccio, Josiah McElheny, Dave Muller, Laura Owens, Jessica Stockholder, Catherine Sullivan and Sarah Sze. The Lucelia Artist Award is part of the museum's ongoing commitment to contemporary art and artists through annual exhibitions, acquisitions and public programs.

"The artists nominated this year for the museum's Lucelia Artist Award show a sustained commitment to distinctive work that challenges conventional thinking and expectations about the nature of art," said Elizabeth Broun, The Margaret and Terry Stent Director of the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

The 2007 winner will be announced in September in conjunction with the opening of the museum's special exhibition "Celebrating the Lucelia Artist Award, 2001-2006," which will be on view from Sept. 21 through June 22, 2008. Sidra Stich, who served as the Lucelia Artist Award executive director from 2000 to 2006, is the guest curator for the exhibition. She is the director of "art-SITES," a series of contemporary art, architecture and design handbooks.

The Lucelia Artist Award, established in 2001, annually recognizes an American artist under the age of 50 who has produced a significant body of work and consistently demonstrates exceptional creativity. Jurors nominate artists who will be recognized as one of the most important and influential artists of his or her time. The \$25,000 award is intended to encourage the artist's future development and experimentation. Previous winners were Matthew Coolidge, director of the Center for Land Use

Interpretation (2006); Andrea Zittel (2005); Kara Walker (2004); Rirkrit Tiravanija (2003); Liz Larner (2002); and Jorge Pardo (2001). Applications are not accepted for this award.

“Now in its seventh year, the Lucelia Artist Award has established itself as a significant vehicle for the support of pioneering artists, and a vital component of the museum’s growing contemporary art program,” said Joanna Marsh, The James Dicke Curator of Contemporary Art at the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Marsh is coordinating the jury panel selection, and the nomination and jurying process. Five distinguished jurors, each with a wide knowledge of contemporary American art, were selected from across the United States. The panel nominated the artists and will determine the award winner in a day of discussion and review, remaining anonymous until the winner is announced in September. Past jurors have included John Baldessari, Klaus Biesenbach, Lynne Cooke, Richard Flood, Elizabeth Murray, Jerry Saltz, Nancy Spector and Robert Storr.

The New York-based Lucelia Foundation, which funds the award, supports the visual arts, specifically 19th-century American and contemporary art.

About the Smithsonian American Art Museum

The Smithsonian American Art Museum celebrates the vision and creativity of Americans with approximately 41,000 artworks in all media spanning more than three centuries. Its National Historic Landmark building, a dazzling showcase for American art and portraiture, is located at Eighth and F streets N.W. in the heart of a revitalized downtown arts district. Museum hours are 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, except Dec. 25. Admission is free. Metrorail station: Gallery Place/Chinatown (Red, Yellow and Green lines). Smithsonian Information: (202) 633-1000; (202) 633-5285 (TTY). Recorded museum information: (202) 633-7970. Web site: americanart.si.edu.

###