

For Immediate Release:
December 8, 2009
Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition
Contact: Julia Kirt, Executive Director
director@ovac-ok.org, 405-879-2400

Twelve Fellows Chosen for New Regional Contemporary Art Program

OKLAHOMA – The first twelve Fellows have been selected for a brand new contemporary art program for art writers and curators. Structured unlike any program in the nation, the Oklahoma Art Writing and Curatorial Fellowship encourages writing that is informed, articulate, inspired and engages audiences in contemporary art.

Through this yearlong program, each of the twelve Fellows will produce art writing and exhibition projects in mentorship with art world luminaries. The Fellows were chosen through a competitive application process and represent independent artists, writers and professionals in museums and educational institutions, living within 350 miles of Oklahoma City (see attached lists for biographies). The Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition presents the program in partnership with the University of Oklahoma School of Art & Art History and the Oklahoma City Museum of Art. Independent curator Shannon Fitzgerald designed the curriculum and serves as program lead.

“We are launching this program to help Oklahoma’s talented and diverse artists, writers, curators and visual arts professionals gain access and additional perspective about the national art scene,” said Julia Kirt, Executive Director. She continued, “A healthy art community includes critical art writers, active curators and an engaging dialogue among living artists and the community. This program will create meaningful dialogue among museums, universities, publishers and artists in our region. The Fellows will benefit from the high caliber mentors whose participation endorses the program’s originality and cultural importance.”

The public will be able to see “behind the scenes” of the contemporary art world through a series of public panel presentations given by the mentors. The first of these will take place on February 20, 1-3 pm, at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art on the campus of the University of Oklahoma in Norman. The following two panel discussions will take place at the Oklahoma City Museum of Art.

Mentors for the 2010 Fellowship include esteemed professionals in the arts such as Tom Eccles, Executive Director of the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College in New York; Tyler Green, noted arts blogger and founder of *Modern Art Notes* in Washington, DC; and Eleanor Heartney, contemporary art critic and contributing editor to *Art in America* in New York City, among others. Local

mentor W. Jackson Rushing, III, who recently joined the University of Oklahoma, is a preeminent scholar of contemporary Native American Art and publishes widely about modern art.

The Oklahoma Art Writing and Curatorial Fellowship is sponsored in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, Oklahoma Humanities Council, National Endowment for the Humanities, Oklahoma Arts Council and Allied Arts. The Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition is a 21-year old organization providing career resources for artists who live and work in Oklahoma. For more information about the program and public panels, please visit www.write-curate-art.org or call 405-879-2400.

###

Oklahoma Art Writing and Curatorial Fellowship

Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition in Partnership with The School of Art & Art History at the University of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma City Museum of Art

A program to encourage writing that is informed, articulate, inspired and engages audiences in contemporary art.

Fellows - Oklahoma Art Writing and Curatorial Fellowship 2010

Sarah Atlee (Oklahoma City, OK)

Painter, illustrator, blogger, and recipient of OVAC's 2008 *Art 365* award.

Josh Buss (Moore, OK)

Artist and Education Director at City Arts Center in Oklahoma City.

Scott Gleeson (Dallas, TX)

Artist and critic who recently completed an MA in Art History at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

Brian Hearn (Oklahoma City, OK)

Artist and Film Curator at the Oklahoma City Museum of Art; received the Tilghman Award in 2009 for outstanding support of films in Oklahoma.

Alison Hearst (Ft Worth, TX)

Curatorial Research Assistant at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Co-founder of experimental art collaborative, Subtext Projects, and contributes reviews to *Art Critical*, *Art Lies*, and *Glasstire*.

Sarah Jesse (Tulsa, OK)

Bernson Director of Education and Public Programs at the Philbrook Museum of Art in Tulsa; previously served as Assistant Director of Public Programs at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago.

Kelsey Karper (Oklahoma City, OK)

Artist and Associate Director at the Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition where she also serves as editor of *Art Focus Oklahoma* magazine.

Cedar Marie (Norman, OK)

Artist and Assistant Professor of Art at the University of Oklahoma School of Art and Art History, Norman.

Mary Kathryn Moeller (Tulsa, OK)

Teaches art history at Jenks High School; recently completed studies at Sotheby's Institute of Art, London.

Lee Piechocki (Kansas City, MO)

Curator, writer, and artist who works for the Kansas City Art Institute; Co-creator of Research and Development, a freelance curatorial venture; and has published writings in *Review* and *Juxtapoz*.

Heather Read (Norman, OK)

Master's candidate in Art History at the University of Oklahoma, Norman.

Louise Siddons, PhD (Stillwater, OK)

Art historian and Assistant Professor of American, Modern and Contemporary Art at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater; received PhD from Stanford University.

Mentors - Oklahoma Art Writing and Curatorial Fellowship 2010

Tracy Abeln, Editor, *Review Magazine*, Kansas City

Frances Colpitt, Professor and Deedie Potter Rose Chair of Art History at Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX.

Margo A. Crutchfield, Senior Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art, Cleveland.

Tom Eccles, Executive Director, Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York

Shannon Fitzgerald, Independent Curator and Writer, Oklahoma City

Tyler Green, Founder and Editor, *Modern Art Notes*, Washington DC

Kate Hackman, Associate Director, Charlotte Street Foundation, Kansas City

Eleanor Heartney, Writer, Contemporary Art Critic, and Contributing Editor to *Art in America*, New York City.

Catherine J. Morris, Curator of the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art, Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn, NY (former Adjunct Curator of Contemporary Art, The Philbrook Museum of Art, Tulsa, Oklahoma)

--MORE--

W. Jackson Rushing, III, Eugene Adkins Presidential Professor of Art History and the Mary Lou Milner Carver Chair in Native American Art in the University of Oklahoma School of Art and Art History, Norman, Oklahoma.

Emily Stamey, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita State University, Kansas.

Public Programs

February 20, 1-3 pm

Writing About Art in Museums and Academia
Frances Colpitt, W. Jackson Rushing, III, and Emily Stamey
Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art
University of Oklahoma
555 Elm Avenue, Norman, OK 73019

March 27, 1-3 pm

What Does a Curator Do? Three Curatorial Models
Margo Crutchfield, Tom Eccles, Kate Hackman, and Catherine Morris
Oklahoma City Museum of Art
415 Couch Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73102

September 18, 1-3 pm

Criticism, Critique, and Publishing
Tracy Abeln, Tyler Green, and Eleanor Heartney
Oklahoma City Museum of Art
415 Couch Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73102

For additional information about the Oklahoma Art Writing and Curatorial Fellowship, please contact
Julia Kirt, Executive Director, Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition.
405-879-2400 • director@ovac-ok.org