

FRONT INTERNATIONAL: CLEVELAND TRIENNIAL FOR CONTEMPORARY ART ANNOUNCES ARTIST RESIDENCY PROGRAM TO BE LOCATED IN NEW ARTS CAMPUS AS OF SEPTEMBER 2017



CLEVELAND, OH (May 30, 2017) – FRONT International: Cleveland Triennial for Contemporary Art announces the launch of an artist residency program to be located in a new arts campus in Cleveland in September 2017, which will mark the start of programming for the inaugural edition of the region-wide exhibition. With support from the Cleveland Foundation's Creative Fusion program, FRONT International will bring six international artists to Cleveland for residencies beginning this fall. The artists, selected by Co-Artistic Directors Michelle Grabner and Jens Hoffmann, will live and work in Cleveland as they research projects that will be unveiled as part of the first Triennial, titled *An American City*, taking place July 14 to September 30, 2018.

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In addition to the six international artists, FRONT will bring six artists from across the United States to Cleveland to participate in residencies and prepare for their part in the Triennial. Six Cleveland-based artists will also participate in the residencies, programming, and preparation for the exhibition.

All visiting artists will reside and work in the newly developed Glenville Arts Campus. In partnership with the Famicos Foundation, a community development corporation located in the Glenville neighborhood of Cleveland, FRONT is repurposing two of the foundation's currently unused properties, a former medical office building and an adjacent preschool. Serving as a forum and a gathering place, the campus will feature apartments to house the artists during their residency in addition to public program spaces, where artists can engage actively with the local community.

The opening of the Glenville Arts Campus will mark the culmination of a multi-year effort to stabilize and repopulate the stretch of East 105th known

as Heritage Lane, where millions of dollars have already been invested by public, private, and philanthropic partners. The campus includes the Medical Arts building, a four-story, mid-century modernist building that once housed black-owned medical practices catering to the neighborhood's African American residents.

With a \$1.1 million loan from PNC Bank, the building's three upper floors will be transformed into twelve new residential units, occupied first by a collection of international artists as part of the Cleveland Foundation's Creative Fusion residency. The ground floor will be retrofitted as a community café and public meeting space.

"PNC has been a strong supporter of the arts and the revitalization of the East 105th Street corridor, and this project allows us to continue that mission," said **Michael Taylor**, Senior Vice President of Community Development Banking at PNC. "The arts can enrich a community and be a catalyst for additional redevelopment, which lifts the region as a whole. We're proud to be part of this exciting and meaningful project."

Next door to the Medical Arts building is a vacant single-story building formerly occupied by a neighborhood preschool. The building's open floor plan, lofted ceilings, and oversized windows facing East 105th Street make it an ideal location for a studio workspace and meeting place for artists and community groups. The space between the two buildings—currently an asphalt drive and parking pad—will be re-created as flexible public space that connects the residential and café functions with the workspace next door.

The former medical office building plays a significant role in Cleveland's history, as it was designed by Robert P. Madison, Ohio's first African American architect, for a consortium of black doctors in 1962. The newly restored building will be named The Madison in honor of its designer. The redesign for the project is led by August Fluker of the Cleveland-based firm City Architecture.

As part of the Cleveland Foundation's Creative Fusion: Cuba Edition (spring 2017), faculty and students from Kent State University's Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative and the Cleveland Institute of Art undertook design work on the former preschool building in partnership with famed Havana-based architects Sofía Márquez Aguiar and Ernesto Jiménez. Jiménez and Aguiar lead Fábrica de Arte Cubano (Cuban Art Factory), a vibrant community arts space housed in a repurposed cooking-oil plant in Havana. They have been working with local students to develop additional functional design ideas to activate and link the two buildings.

"With the residency program beginning in the fall of 2017, the Triennial will start its program and its public engagement with the city of Cleveland," said **Jens Hoffmann**, Co-Artistic Director of FRONT International. "The residencies are one element of a ten-part program of what we call Cultural

Exercises, encompassing exhibitions, publications, research, and public events that together outline how we think about contemporary art as a catalyst for social change and a tool for positive transformation of economic inequality. It was important to us to bring together artists from around the world, the nation, and Cleveland to foster a dialogue about Cleveland's position in the wider global cultural and political spectrum."

FRONT Co-Artistic Director **Michelle Grabner** noted, "The Glenville residency offers artists a regional American geography and workaday temporal conditions to explore their ideas while being immersed within the varied cultural experiences of Cleveland."

"Beginning this fall, the Glenville Arts Campus will be a lively hub for creativity, bringing visitors from around the world to a neighborhood that has been historically underserved and misunderstood," said **Fred Bidwell**, Executive Director of FRONT. "We are pleased to be part of the Glenville community, and we welcome the opportunity to have a lasting impact on the neighborhood."

Bringing international, national, and local artists together in the new Glenville Arts Campus, the FRONT artist residency program is made possible with major support from the Cleveland Foundation. In addition to financial support for visiting international artists, the Cleveland Foundation Board of Directors has provided major operating grant support to FRONT and recently approved a \$350,000 capital grant to Famicos Foundation to make the property development in Glenville possible.

"This project aligns the resources of our Greater University Circle Initiative, which seeks to revitalize and connect the neighborhoods surrounding Cleveland's iconic medical, educational, and cultural institutions with our Creative Fusion international artist residency program to create maximum impact and transformation," said **Ronn Richard**, President and CEO of the Cleveland Foundation. "This project builds on our ongoing collaboration with Famicos Foundation in Glenville over the last several years. We are proud to support new connections being formed among residents, local artists, and the international arts community through the inaugural FRONT Triennial."

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[Image credit: Rendering of Glenville Arts Campus, Courtesy of City Architects.]



FRONT International
Cleveland Triennial for
Contemporary Art

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

About FRONT International

FRONT International: Cleveland Triennial for Contemporary Art is a citywide program of contemporary art and the expression of a two-year engagement by an international team of artists, curators, and scholars with the creative resources of Cleveland. In museum exhibitions and unconventional sites spread across the city, FRONT will be an expansive stage for local, national, and international artists to create and share new work that is inspired by and engaged with the most important social, political, cultural, and environmental issues of today.

The Triennial will be an important showcase for Northeast Ohio's cultural resources, convening artists, curators, scholars, collectors, and art lovers around a city- and region-wide celebration of contemporary art. Powered by all of Cleveland and Northeast Ohio's renowned visual arts institutions, the exhibition will be unique in the world for the scope of its collaboration.

The first edition of the planned Triennial has been titled *An American City*. The themes and ideas explored by artists will be authentically rooted in the spirit of Cleveland and the region while connecting our history and future to issues and ideas that are universal and global.

When

July 14–September 30, 2018

Where

Cleveland and Northeast Ohio

Presenting Partners

Akron Art Museum
Allen Memorial Art Museum
Cleveland Institute of Art
Cleveland Museum of Art
Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland
SPACES Gallery
Transformer Station

Leadership

Fred Bidwell, Executive Director

Fred Bidwell is a philanthropist, collector, and community leader. After a thirty-five-year career as an advertising and marketing entrepreneur, he

established, together with his wife, the Fred and Laura Ruth Bidwell Foundation in 2011. In 2013, the Bidwell Foundation opened Transformer Station, a contemporary art exhibition space on Cleveland's West Side. Transformer Station alternates as a venue for exhibitions curated by the Bidwells from their renowned collection of photo-based contemporary art and exhibitions organized by the Cleveland Museum of Art. Fred Bidwell serves on the boards of Akron Art Museum and Cleveland Museum of Art, and on the Visiting Committee of the Allen Memorial Art Museum.

Michelle Grabner, Co-Artistic Director

Michelle Grabner is a celebrated American painter and conceptual artist. Her work is in the collections of the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Milwaukee Art Museum; the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; DaimlerChrysler Collection, Berlin; Mudam Luxembourg; Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC; and the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. In November 2012, Grabner was selected as one of three curators to organize the 2014 Whitney Biennial in New York. She recently curated the Portland2016 Biennial, a statewide exhibition in Oregon. Grabner is the Crown Family Professor of Painting and Drawing at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. With her husband, Brad Killam, she co-directs the project spaces The Suburban in Milwaukee and the Poor Farm in Little Wolf, Wisconsin. Michelle Grabner serves on the board of the Milwaukee Art Museum.

Jens Hoffmann, Co-Artistic Director

Jens Hoffmann is an exhibition maker, writer, educator, and editor based in New York. Since 2012 he has been Deputy Director of Exhibitions and Public Programs at the Jewish Museum in New York. He has been Senior Curator-at-Large at the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit since 2012 and a curator and senior adviser for the Kadist Art Foundation in San Francisco and Paris since 2008. Formerly Director of the CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, and Director of Exhibitions at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, Hoffmann has curated and co-curated over five dozen exhibitions around the world, including the 9th Shanghai Biennale, the 12th Istanbul Biennial, the 2nd San Juan Triennial, and the 1st Prague Biennale. He is the Founding Editor of *The Exhibitionist: Journal on Exhibition Making* and Editor-at-Large of *Mousse* magazine. A frequent contributor to art magazines such as *Frieze* and *Artforum*, he has written over 250 essays for exhibition catalogues and museum publications. In 2016, Hoffmann received the Award for Curatorial Excellence from the Association of American Museum Curators Foundation.



FRONT International
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Support

FRONT is made possible through the generous support of:

The City of Cleveland
The Cleveland Foundation
Destination Cleveland
The Falk Brothers Fund
The George Gund Foundation
The Kelvin and Eleanor Smith Foundation
The Richard and Alita Rogers Family Foundation

About the Cleveland Foundation

Established in 1914, the Cleveland Foundation is the world's first community foundation and one of the largest today, with assets of \$2.1 billion and 2016 grants of \$93.6 million. Through the generosity of donors, the foundation improves the lives of residents of Cuyahoga, Lake, and Geauga Counties by building community endowment, addressing needs through grantmaking, and providing leadership on vital issues. The foundation tackles the community's priority areas—education and youth development, neighborhoods, health and human services, arts and culture, economic development, and purposeful aging—and responds to the community's needs.

For more information on the Cleveland Foundation, visit www.clevelandfoundation.org. Follow the foundation on [Facebook.com/ClevelandFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/ClevelandFoundation), Twitter [@CleveFoundation](https://twitter.com/CleveFoundation), and Instagram [@CleveFoundation](https://www.instagram.com/CleveFoundation).

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Budget: \$4 to \$5 million



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