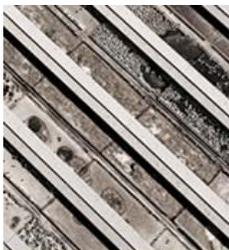




## NEWS

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08.13.12 European Critics on Franz West; Documenta Breaks Record at Halfway Mark; Controversy Surrounds Appointment of Jonathan Meese; Pussy Riot Trial Continues ...  
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## Newest Entries

Michael Wilson on "Artists Guarding Artists" at Family Business  
 Miriam Katz at the 30th Just for Laughs festival  
 Dawn Chan at a benefit for the Watermill Art Center  
 Cathryn Drake on "What Is the Time?" at the Izolyatsiya Art Centre  
 Allese Thomson at the opening of "Ghosts in the Machine" at the New Museum  
 Nikki Columbus at the opening of the Tate Modern Tanks

**Margo Leavin Gallery to Close**

08.15.12

Dealer Margo Leavin has announced that she will be closing her eponymous gallery after forty-two years. Since opening her doors in 1970, Leavin has been the LA representative of such artists as Jeffrey Vallance, Alexis Smith, William Leavitt, and John Baldessari, who later said, "I thought she would be around for a long time. And it turned out to be true." The gallery will officially close in September at the end of the current group show, though it will remain open by appointment through the following year, according to David Ng of the *Los Angeles Times*. Business associate Wendy Brandow, who became a partner in 1989, told the *Times*, "People are approaching art differently today. They're not seeking out the thoughtful, complete statement that artists make when they create gallery exhibitions. The exhibitions have been such an important part of what we do, and they are no longer valued as much by the public." Added Leavin, "It feels like the right moment for change."

**Royal Scottish Academy of Art and Architecture Announces Award Winners**

08.15.12

The Royal Scottish Academy of Art and Architecture has announced the recipients of three awards. Roger&Reid has won the Morton Award, valued at nearly \$8,000, which will fund the duo's proposal to travel through Scotland visiting and documenting historic battle sites. Anne Murray is the winner of the \$3,000 Littlejohn Award, which will allow her to study the ancient Japanese printmaking technique of Mokuhanaga and apply it to her ceramic practice. And Madeline Mackay, winner of the Barns-Graham Travel Award, will use her \$3,000 prize to fund her upcoming residency position at Aland Archipelago, Finland.

**Third Text Issues Letter Protesting Dismissal of Founding Editor**

08.14.12

*Third Text*, a scholarly journal providing critical perspectives on art and visual culture, specifically examining the ways in which "the West legitimizes its position as the ultimate arbiter of what is significant within this field," has issued a letter protesting the "continuing disrespect" and dismissal of founding editor Rasheed Araeen by the board of trustees. In the letter, the journal's editorial staff members accuse the board of taking "the extraordinary unilateral action of dismissing Rasheed Araeen as executive director . . . without consulting with the *Third Text* editorial board or advisory council and without any attempt to publicly explain or justify such a drastic action." Going on to summarize the events that ensued—which included the resignations of five of the nine members of *Third Text's* editorial board—the petitioners stated, "In our view, what has taken place is unacceptable. Clearly, there were major divergences and sharp disputes regarding funding strategies in the current financial crisis and official turn to austerity. But no such differences justify the removal, without consultation or justification, of the man who more than any other defined the vision we share and established the standards of the journal we know and love."

**Tao Wang Appointed Head of Chinese Works at Sotheby's**

08.14.12

Tao Wang has been named head of Chinese works in the art department at Sotheby's. Previously a senior lecturer at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, Wang was born and educated in China and has published widely on a range of subjects relating to Chinese art. Said Henry Howard-Sneyd, Sotheby's vice chairman of Asian art: "Tao Wang is a major addition to our Chinese works of art expertise. He comes to Sotheby's after a long and successful career in academia, which has seen him develop links to collectors in Asia and across the world. With his experience of working in China, Wang brings not only a deep knowledge of Chinese art but also an understanding of the cultural background and importance of these wonderful objects."

**Nancy Berliner Named Curator of Chinese Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston**

08.14.12

Nancy Berliner has been named Wu Tung Curator of Chinese Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. For the past twelve years Berliner has acted as curator of Chinese art at the Peabody Essex Museum. She will assume her position October 26, 2012. "Nancy brings to the MFA a rich record of research, writing, and curatorial work that has sought to frame a broad definition of Chinese art and visual culture, including Chinese architecture, gardens, and furniture, as well as popular and vernacular cultures," said Jane Portal, an official at the museum.

## Akron Museum Loses Director, Gains Chief Curator

08.13.12

The director of the Akron Art Museum, Mitchell Kahan, has announced that he will be stepping down after a twenty-six-year career at the museum, reports the *Plain Dealer*. Kahan, sixty-one, was behind the \$35 million museum expansion in 2007. Fred Bidwell, president of the museum's board of trustees, said that "Mitchell has a lot of classic leadership qualities—a vision, charisma, and courage. He also has one other quality: He worries himself to death." Additionally, the museum announced that Janice Driesbach, immediate past director and CEO of the Dayton Art Institute, will become the Akron Museum's new chief curator.

## Jan Sawka (1946–2012)

08.13.12

The *Los Angeles Times* has reported that artist and architect Jan Sawka has died at the age of sixty-five. Sawka, who was born in Poland in 1946, had two masters's degrees, in painting and architectural engineering. He moved to New York City in the late 1970s, where he worked for as an illustrator for the *New York Times* and designed theaters including the Harold Clurman, Jean Cocteau Repertory, and Samuel Beckett Theater. He was also heavily involved in the counterculture movement in both Poland and New York City. He won the Premio di Lorenzo Il Magnifico Gold Medal in multimedia in 2003 and the American Institute of Architects Excellence in Architecture Award in 2011.

## Fire in Basement of Seoul's National Museum of Contemporary Art Kills Four

08.13.12

The *Wall Street Journal* reports that a fire broke out amid construction deep in the basement of the new National Museum of Contemporary Art in Seoul, South Korea, killing four. Another eighteen people were injured. The \$70 million building is nearly sixty thousand square feet and replaces the museum's old site in Gwacheon. There was no word on how the fire will affect the building's progress.

## Studio Museum Announces Artists for 2012–13 Residency Program

08.10.12

The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York has announced that Steffani Jemison, Jennifer Packer, and Cullen Washington, Jr. have been selected for its 2012–13 artists-in-residency program. The three were chosen for the eleven-month program from a pool of over two hundred applicants. Each will be included in the museum's upcoming group show, "Fore," which will run from November 8 through March 10, 2012. Additionally, the selected artists will present work in an exhibition scheduled to open July of 2013. Said assistant curator and program coordinator Lauren Haynes, who will curate the 2012 show: "I am delighted to welcome Steffani, Jennifer, and Cullen to the Studio Museum community. Our artists in residence are truly at the heart of the museum, and we all look forward to the insightful conversations and amazing work coming in the year ahead."

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