

Anderson Ranch Arts Center Presents

*Sisters on Top: Art-world professionals talk about
Islam, Immigration and Ingenuity*

A Summer Series Panel Discussion Featuring
Diana Al-Hadid, Huma Bhabha and Leila Heller
in conversation with Sarah Thornton

August 3, 2017 at 12:30pm



Diana Al-Hadid; Image courtesy of the artist, Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, and OHWOW Gallery, Los Angeles. Huma Bhabha; Photograph by Jason Schmidt, 2012. Leila Heller: Image courtesy of Leila Heller Gallery. Sarah Thornton: Photograph by Beryl Bevilacqua.

Aspen/Snowmass, Colorado (July 27, 2017)—As part of its 2017 Summer Series: Featured Artists & Conversations, Anderson Ranch Arts Center presents *Sisters on Top: Art-world professionals talk about Islam, Immigration and Ingenuity*, a panel discussion featuring artists **Diana Al-Hadid** and **Huma Bhabha** and gallerist **Leila Heller** in conversation with writer **Sarah Thornton**. The discussion, which brings together top female voices in the contemporary art world, will serve as a platform for vital dialogue on the pertinent topics of Islam and immigration within the art world and beyond. Anderson Ranch is committed to being a destination for art making and critical dialogue, creating a space for independent discourse around complex ideas and diverse perspectives.

The Ranch's popular Summer Series fosters a broader understanding of contemporary art and art making through lectures, conversations and panels with acclaimed artists, curators, collectors and writers. Participants in the 2017 Summer Series included: artists **Doug Aitken**, **Walead Beshty**, **Wangechi Mutu** and **William J. O'Brien**; art collectors **Jan and Ronnie Greenberg**; and **Amy Cappellazzo**, Chairman, Fine Art Division, Sotheby's. Taking place throughout Aspen's summer season, the annual Summer Series draws over 1,500 collectors and patrons, art enthusiasts and the public, as well as Anderson Ranch students and faculty.

The 2017 Summer Series runs parallel to Anderson Ranch's Critical Dialogue series, an engaging program driven by interactive discussion and led by an exciting lineup of renowned

scholars, critics, writers and artists who take an in-depth look at relevant topics and trends in the contemporary visual arts. The final Critical Dialogue event this summer— *The Artist, the Censor, and the Nude*, a panel discussion with artist **Pamela Joseph**, authors **Glenn Harcourt** and **Eleanor Heartney**, and scholar and curator **Francis M. Naumann**—will take place on August 10.

About Diana Al-Hadid

Diana Al-Hadid was born in Aleppo, Syria in 1981 and currently lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. She received a BFA in Sculpture and a BA in Art History from Kent State University in 2003, and an MFA in Sculpture from Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond in 2005. She also attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in 2007. She has been the recipient of a Joan Mitchell Grant, a Louis Comfort Tiffany Grant, a New York Foundation for the Arts Grant, and a Pollock-Krasner Grant. She is also a United States Artists Rockefeller Fellow. Al-Hadid has had solo exhibitions at the David Winton Bell Gallery at Brown University, Providence, RI, NYU Abu Dhabi University Gallery, Abu Dhabi, UAE, The Vienna Secession in Vienna, Austria, the Columbus College of Art and Design, Columbus, OH, the Akron Museum of Art, Akron, OH, the Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, GA, the Weatherspoon Museum of Art, Greensboro, NC the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA, the University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, the Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas, TX, the Centro de Arte Contemporánea, La Conservera, Murcia, Spain, the Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, NV, and the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA. Her work is included in collections such as the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Lincoln, MA, the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX, and the Weatherspoon Art Museum, Greensboro, NC. She is represented in New York by Marianne Boesky Gallery.

About Huma Bhabha

Huma Bhabha (American, b. Karachi, Pakistan, 1962) lives and works in Poughkeepsie, New York. Her work has been the subject of numerous national and international solo exhibitions, including *Unnatural Histories*, MoMA P.S.1, New York; *Players*, Collezione Maramotti, Reggio Emilia, Italy; *Huma Bhabha*, Aspen Art Museum, Colorado, *Stranger*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Cleveland, Ohio; *All the World's Futures* curated by Okwui Enwezor at the 56TH International Art Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia, Italy; *The Human Factor: Uses of the Figure in Contemporary Sculpture*, Hayward Gallery, London, UK; *A Different Kind of Order: The ICP Triennial*, International Center of Photography, New York; *Land Marks*, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; *Intense Proximity*, La Triennale, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France; *2010 Whitney Biennial*, Whitney Museum, New York; and the 7th *Gwangju Biennale*, Korea. She is the 2013 recipient of the Berlin Prize, Guna S. Mundheim Fellowship, The American Academy in Berlin and received The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum Emerging Artist Award in 2008.

About Leila Heller

Leila Taghnia-Milani Heller received a Bachelor's degree from Brown University, and a Master's degree from the Sotheby's Institute in London as well as a second Master's degree in

Art History and Museum Management from George Washington University. While in Washington DC, she worked at the Hirshhorn Museum until moving to New York to work at the Guggenheim Museum. She has written numerous articles and frequently gives lectures at the Guggenheim, MFA Houston, Brown University, MOCA LA, Sotheby's, Artnet, various art fairs and other art institutions around the world most prominently in the Middle East. She also has given educational lectures at many universities, including a yearly seminar at Brown University about Middle Eastern Art. Leila Heller has been interviewed for publications including the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Canvas Magazine, Art News, Art and America, Forbes, and many others.

About Sarah Thornton

Sarah Thornton is a writer, ethnographer and sociologist of culture. Described by the *Washington Post* as “the Jane Goodall of the art world” and by the *Financial Times* as a “skillfully nuanced” writer whose prose is characterized by “verve, insight and authenticity,” Thornton is the author of three books and hundreds of articles. Her narrative non-fiction best seller, *Seven Days in the Art World*, is available in twenty foreign languages. Her latest book, *33 Artists in 3 Acts*, which the *San Francisco Chronicle* said “will startle even art-world insiders,” is neither romantic nor cynical – a behind-the-scenes investigation of artists’ lives and credibilities. Formerly the chief writer on contemporary art for *The Economist*, Thornton now contributes regularly to *Cultured* magazine and occasionally to many other publications, television programs and radio broadcasts. Thornton has a BA in Art History and a PhD in Sociology. Her PhD was published as *Club Cultures: Music, Media and Subcultural Capital*. She was the co-editor of the first edition of *The Subcultures Reader*. A Canadian and British citizen, Thornton is now a resident of San Francisco.

About Anderson Ranch

Founded in 1966, Anderson Ranch Arts Center is a premier destination in America for art making and critical dialogue, bringing together aspiring and internationally renowned artists to discuss and further their work in a stimulating environment. Nestled in the Rocky Mountains of Aspen/Snowmass, Colorado, the Ranch hosts extensive workshops for every day, emerging and established artists in eight disciplines, including Photography & New Media, Ceramics, Painting & Drawing, Furniture Design & Woodworking, Sculpture, Woodturning, Printmaking and Digital Fabrication.

In addition to the Summer Series: Featured Artists & Conversations, the Ranch also hosts engaging events throughout the year including: the Recognition Dinner (Thursday, July 20, 2017) honoring the National Artist Award, Service to the Arts Award and Extraordinary Leadership Award recipients; the Annual Art Auction & Community Picnic (Saturday, August 5, 2017), a thirty-seven-year-old tradition which features works of local, national and international artists; and the Artists-in-Residence Program, fostering artistic growth for emerging and established visual artists. In 2016 Anderson Ranch celebrated its 50th anniversary, furthering its mission to enrich lives with art, inspiration and community.

Learn more at www.andersonranch.org or [970/923.3181](tel:9709233181).

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