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ANDERSON RANCH ARTS CENTER ANNOUNCES 2018 'SUMMER SERIES: FEATURED ARTISTS & CONVERSATIONS' PARTICIPANTS

A highlight of Anderson Ranch's summer season, the Summer Series hosts world-renowned artists and key figures in the art world who visit the Ranch to present and discuss their work with students, faculty, patrons and the public.

2018 Summer Series to Run July 12-August 9



L to R: Ai Weiwei 2012 (image courtesy Ai Weiwei Studio); Njideka Akunyili Crosby (photograph by Trevor Tondro); Tara Donovan (photo credit Joe Schildhorn); Alex Israel (photo credit Rachel Chandler); Robert Longo (photo credit Martin Kunze); Vik Muniz (photo credit Lucas Blalock)

Aspen/Snowmass, CO (April 19, 2018) — Anderson Ranch Arts Center, a premier art-making destination and a catalyst for critical dialog in the contemporary art world, announces this year's **Summer Series: Featured Artists & Conversations** with acclaimed artists **Ai Weiwei, Njideka Akunyili Crosby, Tara Donovan, Robert Longo** and **Vik Muniz**. The series will present these artists in conversation with top art world professionals from across the country including **Nora Burnett Abrams, Alexandra Munroe, Naomi Beckwith** and **Renaud Proch**. The Summer Series will also feature **Service to the Arts Award** Honorees **Bunny** and **Charles Burson** in conversation with **Edward Felsenthal**, Editor in Chief of *TIME Magazine*.

In addition, L.A.-based multi-media artist **Alex Israel** will be the featured speaker for the **2018 National Council Summer Celebration** on Friday, July 27.

"Our commitment to stimulating creative dialog focused on contemporary art and art-making is at the heart of our Summer Series program," said Nancy Wilhelms, Executive Director of Anderson Ranch. "This year's lineup of Featured Artists and Conversations is testament to that commitment. We continue to invite artists and art world influencers to the Ranch to engage in conversation with the community as part of our mission. We're so looking forward to hosting the series this summer."

2018 Summer Series: Featured Artists & Conversations Schedule

Reservations required. Online registration opens Tuesday, May 8. All events take place in Schermer Meeting Hall on Anderson Ranch Arts Center's campus, located at 5263 Owl Creek Road, Snowmass Village, CO, 81615. For reservations, visit andersonranch.org.

- THURSDAY, JULY 12, 12:30PM **Tara Donovan** in conversation with **Nora Burnett Abrams** (The Ellen Bruss Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver)
- WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 12:30PM 2018 International Artist Honoree - **Ai Weiwei** in conversation with **Alexandra Munroe** (Samsung Senior Curator, Asian Art, and Senior Advisor, Global Arts, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum)
- THURSDAY, JULY 19, 12:30PM **Bunny & Charles Burson** in conversation with **Edward Felsenthal** (Editor-in-Chief, *TIME Magazine*)
- THURSDAY, JULY 26, 12:30PM **Njideka Akunyili Crosby** in conversation with **Naomi Beckwith** (Marilyn and Larry Fields Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago)
- FRIDAY, JULY 27, 6PM **National Council** special event with **Alex Israel**
- THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 12:30PM **Vik Muniz** in conversation with **Renaud Proch** (Executive Director, Independent Curators International)
- THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 12:30PM **Robert Longo**

The annual series features some of the most influential artists of our time, explores the work of world-renowned creators and curators, and hosts conversations with today's most significant critics and collectors in both lecture and Q&A formats. Past artist participants have included Doug Aitken (2017), The Haas Brothers (2016), Frank Stella (2015), Theaster Gates (2014) and Marina Abramović (2013).

The **Summer Series** is supported by Toby Devan Lewis and the Ranch's National Council Sponsors. It is part of a full slate of creative public programming at Anderson Ranch throughout the year, including the Ranch's **Critical Dialog** programs, generously supported by Paula and Jim Crown. Registration information can be found at www.andersonranch.org.

2018 Critical Dialog

The first program on June 14, "**Makin' It**", is an exploration of working artists. The term "starving artist" isn't just a myth— most successful artists have struggled with financial hardship, balancing their studio practice with multiple jobs and student loan debts in their quest to follow their dreams. This exciting program will reveal one artist's unique pathway to a successful and meaningful art career. In conversation with Artistic Director Elizabeth Ferrill, artist Esteban del Valle will share his experiences from his youth as an art student, to finding gallery representation and supporting himself as an artist. He will provide insights into becoming a vital participant in the contemporary art world.

July 9-10, Anderson Ranch will present its second Critical Dialog, "**Rebels in Paradise**"; a discussion and interactive activity centered on the art scene in 1960's Los Angeles. The conversation will examine how a creative community operated outside the pressures of New York City that included artists like Ed Ruscha, David Hockney, Bruce Nauman, Judy Chicago, Robert Irwin and John Baldessari. This workshop examines an era in Southern California that cultivated the thriving cultural scene of today, focusing on icons like Andy Warhol, Frank Gehry, the Beach Boys and Dennis Hopper. It also explores the use of collage and assemblage as alternatives to traditional painting or sculpture by looking at African American artists such as Noah Purifoy and female artists like Alexis Smith and Betye Saar. Led by KCRW's **Hunter Drohojowska-Philp** and Chair of the MFA

Fine Arts Program at the Otis College of Art and Design, **Roy Dowell**, the program explores L.A.'s unique history and the ways in which its artists produced their work.

ABOUT ANDERSON RANCH ARTS CENTER

Founded in 1966, Anderson Ranch Arts Center is a premier destination in America for art making and critical dialog, 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 aspiring, 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 hosts engaging events throughout the year including: the Recognition Dinner, held in honor of Anderson Ranch's International Artist Award and Service to the Arts Award honorees; the Annual Art Auction & Community Picnic, a thirty-six-year-old tradition which features works of local, national and international artists; and a year-round Artists-in-Residence Program, fostering artistic growth for emerging and established visual artists. For over 50 years Anderson Ranch Arts Center has been working to enrich lives with art, inspiration and community. Learn more at www.andersonranch.org or 970/923.3181.

Join the conversation on social media by mentioning Anderson Ranch Arts Center and using the hashtag #AndersonRanch when posting.

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