

WHITNEY

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PRESS RELEASE



Ralph Lemon, *Untitled*, 2021. Oil and acrylic on paper, 26 × 40 in. (66.1 × 101.6 cm). Image courtesy the artist

ARTISTS ANNOUNCED FOR WHITNEY BIENNIAL 2022: QUIET AS IT'S KEPT, OPENING APRIL 6

Sixty-three artists and collectives selected for eightieth edition.

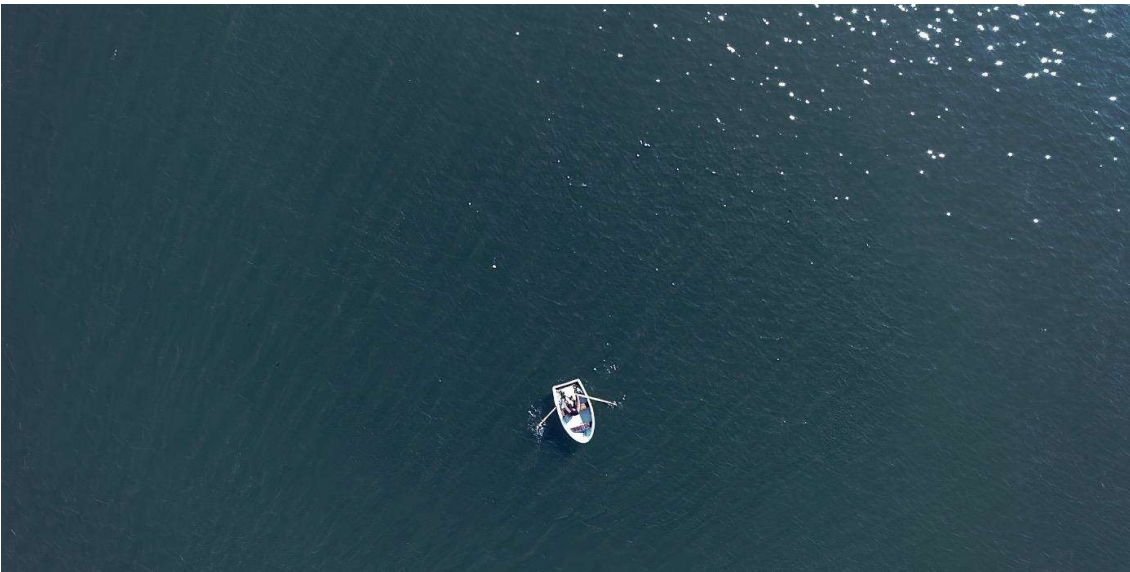
NEW YORK, January 25, 2022— The Whitney Museum of American Art announced today that sixty-three artists and collectives will be participating in *Whitney Biennial 2022: Quiet as It's Kept*, co-organized by two Whitney curators, David Breslin and Adrienne Edwards. This will be the eightieth iteration in the long-running series of annual and biennial exhibitions launched by the Museum's founder, Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, in 1932. The 2022 Biennial takes over most of the Whitney from April 6 through September 5, with portions of the exhibition and some programs continuing through October 23, 2022.

Breslin and Edwards remarked: "The Whitney Biennial is an ongoing experiment, the result of a shared commitment to artists and the work they do. We began planning for this exhibition, originally slated to open in 2021, almost a year before the 2020 election, before the pandemic and shutdown with their reeling effects, before the uprisings demanding racial justice and before the questioning of institutions and their structures. While many of these underlying conditions are not new, their overlapping, intensity, and sheer ubiquity created a context in which past, present, and future folded into one another. We've organized the exhibition to reflect these precarious and improvised times. The Biennial primarily serves as a forum for artists, and the works that will be presented reflect their enigmas, the things that perplex them, the important questions they are asking."



Denyse Thomasos, *Displaced Burial / Burial at Gorée*, 1993. Acrylic on canvas, 108 × 216 in. (274.3 × 548.6 cm). Image courtesy the Estate of Denyse Thomasos and Olga Korper Gallery, Toronto

The 2022 Biennial features dynamic contributions that take different forms over the course of the presentation: artworks—even walls—change, and performance animates the galleries and objects. With a roster of artists at all points in their careers, the Biennial surveys the art of these times through an intergenerational group, many with an interdisciplinary perspective, and the curators have chosen not to have a separate performance or video and film program. Rather, these forms are integrated into the exhibition with an equal and consistent presence in the galleries.



Coco Fusco, still from *Your Eyes Will Be an Empty Word*, 2021. HD video, color, sound; 12 min. Collection of the artist, and Alexander Gray Associates, New York. Image courtesy the artist and Alexander Gray Associates, New York

The majority of the exhibition takes place on the Museum's fifth and sixth floors, which are counterpoints and act as pendants to one another: one floor is a dark labyrinth, a space of containment; and the other is a clearing, open and light-filled. The former also contains an antechamber, a space of reserve. The dynamics of borders and what constitutes "American" are explored by artists from Mexico, specifically Ciudad Juárez and Tijuana, and First Nations artists in Canada, as well as by artists born outside of North America.

"Deliberately intergenerational and interdisciplinary, the Biennial proposes that cultural, aesthetic, and political possibility begins with meaningful exchange and reciprocity," Breslin and Edwards

noted. “Rather than proposing a unified theme, we pursue a series of hunches throughout the exhibition: that abstraction demonstrates a tremendous capacity to create, share, and, sometimes withhold, meaning; that research-driven conceptual art can combine the lushness of ideas and materiality; that personal narratives sifted through political, literary, and pop cultures can address larger social frameworks; that artworks can complicate what ‘American’ means by addressing the country’s physical and psychological boundaries; and that our ‘now’ can be reimagined by engaging with under-recognized artistic models and artists we’ve lost.”



Jacky Connolly, still from *Descent into Hell*, 2021. Multichannel HD video, color, sound; 33:57 min. Courtesy the artist

Adam D. Weinberg, the Museum’s Alice Pratt Brown Director, commented: “Curators David Breslin and Adrienne Edwards have been visiting artists over the past two years in search of the most important and relevant work. The 2022 Biennial arrives at a time haunted by a global pandemic and plagued by ongoing racial and economic inequities and polarizing politics. The artists in the exhibition challenge us to consider how these realities affect our senses of self and community and offer one of the broadest and most diverse takes on art in the United States that the Whitney has offered in many years.”

Scott Rothkopf, Senior Deputy Director and Nancy and Steve Crown Family Chief Curator, noted, “Throughout this challenging time, it’s been an inspiration and pleasure to watch David and Adrienne curate their edition of the Whitney’s enduring, signature exhibition. Their intellectual chemistry was as evident as the rigor and care they brought to their collaborations with artists. The 2022 Biennial deftly manages to reflect both the spirit of a moment and deep historical awareness—of art, our society, and the Biennial itself.”

The title of the 2022 Whitney Biennial, *Quiet as It’s Kept*, is a colloquialism. Breslin and Edwards were inspired by the ways novelist Toni Morrison, jazz drummer Max Roach, and artist David Hammons have invoked it in their works. The phrase is typically said prior to something—sometimes obvious—that should be kept secret.



Andrew Roberts, *La Horda (The horde)*, 2020 (detail). Eight-channel video installation, color, sound; each channel approx. 3–4 min. Collection of Mauricio Galguera; image courtesy the artist and Pequod Co., Mexico City. Photograph by Sergio López
Woody De Othello, study for *The will to make things happen*, 2021. Image courtesy the artist; Jessica Silverman, San Francisco; and Karma, New York

Breslin and Edwards also chose to adorn *Whitney Biennial 2022: Quiet as It's Kept* with a symbol:) (. This inverted set of parentheses is taken from a poem written by N. H. Pritchard in May 1968. The poem's manuscript is included in the exhibition and is reproduced in full in the exhibition's catalogue. A highly experimental poet whose visually dynamic, text-based works strongly resemble concrete poetry, Pritchard traversed many different circles in downtown New York, from membership in Umbra—a collective of Black poets that was radical both aesthetically and politically—to the international poetry avant-garde, to the bohemian Greenwich Village of Philip Guston and Allen Ginsberg. "The symbol resonated with us in its gesturing toward openness, beyond what is contained, even toward the uncontainable. We also value its suggestion of interlude or interval," Breslin and Edwards commented.

Curatorial Credit

Whitney Biennial 2022: Quiet as It's Kept is co-organized by David Breslin, DeMartini Family Curator and Director of Curatorial Initiatives, and Adrienne Edwards, Engell Speyer Family Curator and Director of Curatorial Affairs, with Gabriel Almeida Baroja, Curatorial Project Assistant, and Margaret Kross, former Senior Curatorial Assistant.

The complete list of artists follows:

Lisa Alvarado

Born 1982 in San Antonio, TX
Lives in Chicago, IL

Harold Ancart

Born 1980 in Brussels, Belgium
Lives in New York, NY

Mónica Arreola

Born 1976 in Tijuana, Mexico
Lives in Tijuana, Mexico

Emily Barker

Born 1992 in San Diego, CA
Lives in Los Angeles, CA

Yto Barrada

Born 1971 in Paris, France
Lives in Brooklyn, NY, and
Tangier, Morocco

Rebecca Belmore

Born 1960 in Upsala, Canada
Lives in Vancouver, Canada
Anishinaabe

Jonathan Berger

Born 1980 in New York, NY
Lives in New York, NY and
Glover, VT

Nayland Blake

Born 1960 in New York, NY
Lives in Brooklyn and Queens,
NY

Cassandra Press

Founded 2016 by Kandis Williams

Theresa Hak Kyung Cha

Born 1951 in Busan, South Korea
Died 1982 in New York, NY

Raven Chacon

Born 1977 in Fort Defiance,
Navajo Nation
Lives in Albuquerque, NM
Diné

Leidy Churchman

Born 1979 in Villanova, PA
Lives in New York, NY, and West
Tremont, ME

Tony Cokes

Born 1956 in Richmond, VA
Lives in Providence, RI

Jacky Connolly

Born 1990 in New York, NY
Lives in Brooklyn, NY

Matt Connors

Born 1973 in Chicago, IL
Lives in New York, NY, and Los
Angeles, CA

Alex Da Corte

Born 1980 in Camden, NJ
Lives in Philadelphia, PA

Aria Dean

Born 1993 in Los Angeles, CA
Lives in New York, NY

Danielle Dean

Born 1982 in Huntsville, AL
Lives in Los Angeles and San
Diego, CA

Jane Dickson

Born 1952 in Chicago, IL
Lives in New York, NY

Buck Ellison

Born 1987 in San Francisco, CA
Lives in Los Angeles, CA

Alia Farid

Born 1985 in Kuwait City, Kuwait
Lives in San Juan, PR, and Kuwait
City, Kuwait

Coco Fusco

Born 1960 in New York, NY
Lives in Brooklyn, NY

Ellen Gallagher

Born 1965 in Providence, RI
Lives in Rotterdam, Netherlands,
and Brooklyn, NY

A Gathering of the Tribes/Steve Cannon

Founded 1991
Steve Cannon: Born 1935 in New
Orleans, LA
Died 2019 in New York, NY

Cy Gavin

Born 1985 in Pittsburgh, PA
Lives in New York State

Adam Gordon

Born 1986 in Minneapolis, MN
Lives in Jersey City, NJ

Renée Green

Born 1959 in Cleveland, OH
Lives in Somerville, MA, and New
York, NY

Pao Houa Her

Born 1982 in Laos
Lives in Blaine, MN

EJ Hill

Born 1985 in Los Angeles, CA
Lives in Los Angeles, CA

Alfredo Jaar

Born 1956 in Santiago, Chile
Lives in New York, NY

Rindon Johnson

Born 1990 in San Francisco, CA
Lives in Berlin, Germany

Ivy Kwan Arce and Julie Tolentino

Ivy Kwan Arce:
Born 1965 in Salinas, CA
Lives in New York, NY
Julie Tolentino: Born 1964 in San
Francisco, CA
Lives in Joshua Tree, CA

Ralph Lemon

Born 1952 in Cincinnati, OH
Lives in Brooklyn, NY

Duane Linklater

Born 1976 in Treaty 9 Territory
(Northern Ontario, Canada)
Lives in North Bay, Canada
(Robinson Huron Treaty
Territory)
Omaskêko Ininiwak

James Little

Born 1952 in Memphis, TN
Lives in New York, NY

Rick Lowe

Born 1961 in rural Alabama
Lives in Houston, TX

Daniel Joseph Martinez

Born 1957 in Los Angeles, CA
Lives in Los Angeles, CA, and
Paris, France

Dave McKenzie

Born 1977 in Kingston, Jamaica
Lives in Brooklyn, NY

Rodney McMillian

Born 1969 in Columbia, SC
Lives in Los Angeles, CA

Na Mira

Born 1982 in Lawrence, KS, on
Kickapoo, Osage, Kansa, and
Sioux lands
Lives in Los Angeles, CA, on
Tongva, Gabrielino, Kizh, and
Chumash lands

Alejandro “Luperca” Morales

Born 1990 in Ciudad Juárez,
Mexico
Lives in Monterrey, Mexico

Moved by the Motion

Founded 2016 by Wu Tsang and
Tosh Basco

Terence Nance

Born 1982 in Dallas, TX
Lives in America

Woody De Othello

Born 1991 in Miami, FL
Lives in Oakland, CA

Adam Pendleton

Born 1984 in Richmond, VA
Lives in New York, NY

N. H. Pritchard

Born 1939 in New York, NY
Died 1996 in eastern
Pennsylvania

Lucy Raven

Born 1977 in Tucson, AZ
Lives in New York, NY

Charles Ray

Born 1953 in Chicago, IL
Lives in Los Angeles, CA

Jason Rhoades

Born 1965 in Newcastle, CA
Died 2006 in Los Angeles, CA

Andrew Roberts

Born 1995 in Tijuana, Mexico
Lives in Mexico City and Tijuana,
Mexico

Guadalupe Rosales

Born 1980 in Redwood City, CA
Lives in Los Angeles, CA

Veronica Ryan

Born 1956 in Plymouth,
Montserrat
Lives in London, United Kingdom,
and New York, NY

Rose Salane

Born 1992 in New York, NY
Lives in Queens, NY

Michael E. Smith

Born 1977 in Detroit, MI
Lives in Providence, RI

Sable Elyse Smith

Born 1986 in Los Angeles, CA
Lives in New York, NY

Awilda Sterling-Duprey

Born 1947 in San Juan, PR
Lives in San Juan, PR

Rayyane Tabet

Born 1983 in Beirut, Lebanon
Lives in Beirut, Lebanon, and San
Francisco, CA

Denyse Thomasos

Born 1964 in Port of Spain,
Trinidad and Tobago
Died 2012 in New York, NY

Trinh T. Minh-ha

Born in Hanoi, Vietnam
Lives in Berkeley, CA

WangShui

Born 1986 in USA
Lives in New York, NY

Eric Wesley

Born 1973 in Los Angeles, CA
Lives in Los Angeles, CA

Dyani White Hawk

Born 1976 in Madison, WI
Lives in Minneapolis, MN
Sičangu Lakota

Kandis Williams

Born 1985 in Baltimore, MD
Lives in Los Angeles, CA
and Brooklyn, NY

Catalogue

The 2022 Whitney Biennial catalogue is designed by Studio Lin. The book includes a foreword by Adam D. Weinberg and individual essays by the curators David Breslin and Adrienne Edwards. Each artist entry was either written by the respective artist or was the result of an interview with the curators that was distilled and edited. The book also features contributions by Cassandra Press, Joshua Chambers-Letson, Percival Everett, Candice Hopkins, Zakiyyah Iman Jackson, Ben Lerner, Jovanna Venegas, Simone White, and Soyoung Yoon. The catalogue is published by the Whitney Museum of American Art and distributed by Yale University Press.

Membership and Ticketing

Single tickets for the exhibition go on sale February 22, 2022. Information about Membership and early viewing opportunities, as well as general ticket information, is available at whitney.org.

Exhibition Support

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Major support is provided by The Keith Haring Foundation Exhibition Fund, the Pollock-Krasner Foundation, and an anonymous donor.

Significant support is provided by 2022 Biennial Committee Co-Chairs: Jill Bikoff, Beth Rudin DeWoody, Barbara and Michael Gamson, Miyoung Lee, Bernard Lumpkin, Julie Mehretu, Fred Wilson; 2022 Biennial Committee Members: Philip Aarons and Shelley Fox Aarons, Sarah Arison and Thomas Wilhelm, Candy and Michael Barasch, James Keith (JK) Brown and Eric Diefenbach, Eleanor and Bobby Cayre, Alexandre and Lori Chemla, Suzanne and Bob Cochran, Jenny Brorsen and Richard DeMartini, Fairfax Dorn and Marc Glimcher, Stephen Dull, Martin and Rebecca Eisenberg, Melanie Shorin and Greg S. Feldman, Jeffrey & Leslie Fischer Family Foundation, Cindy and Mark Galant, Christy and Bill Gautreaux, Debra and Jeffrey Geller Family Foundation, Aline and Gregory Gooding, Janet and Paul Hobby, Harry Hu, Peter H. Kahng, Michèle Gerber Klein, Ashley Leeds and Christopher Harland, Dawn and David Lenhardt, Jason Li, Marjorie Mayrock, Stacey and Robert Morse, Daniel Nadler, Opatrny Family Foundation, Orentreich Family Foundation, Nancy and Fred Poses, Marilyn Prince, Eleanor Heyman Propp, George Wells and Manfred Rantner, Martha Records and Richard Rainaldi, Katie and Amnon Rodan, Jonathan M. Rozoff, Linda and Andrew Safran, Subhadra and Rohit Sahni, Erica and Joseph Samuels, Carol and Lawrence Saper, Allison Wiener and Jeffrey Schackner, Jack Shear, Annette and Paul Smith, the Stanley and Joyce Black Family Foundation, Robert Stillin, Rob and Eric Thomas-Suwall, and Patricia Villareal and Tom Leatherbury; as well as the Alex Katz Foundation, Further Forward Foundation, the Kapadia Equity Fund, Gloria H. Spivak, and an anonymous donor.

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New York magazine is the exclusive media sponsor.

About the Whitney

The Whitney Museum of American Art, founded in 1930 by the artist and philanthropist Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney (1875–1942), houses the foremost collection of American art from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Mrs. Whitney, an early and ardent supporter of modern American art, nurtured groundbreaking artists when audiences were still largely preoccupied with the Old Masters. From her vision arose the Whitney Museum of American Art, which has been championing the most innovative art of the United States for ninety years. The core of the Whitney's mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit American art of our time and serve a wide variety of audiences in celebration of the complexity and diversity of art and culture in the United States. Through this mission and a steadfast commitment to artists, the Whitney has long been a powerful force in support of modern and contemporary art and continues to help define what is innovative and influential in American art today.

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Visitor Information

The Whitney Museum of American Art is located at 99 Gansevoort Street between Washington and West Streets, New York City. Public hours are: Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 10:30 am–6 pm; Friday, 10:30 am–10 pm; and Saturday and Sunday, 11 am–6 pm. Closed Tuesday. Member-only hours are: Saturday and Sunday, 10:30–11 am. Visitors eighteen years and under and Whitney members: FREE. Admission is pay-what-you-wish on Fridays, 7–10 pm.

Face coverings are required for all visitors, and timed tickets must be booked in advance. In planning your visit, please review the Whitney's complete safety guidelines at whitney.org/visit.

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Captions

Ralph Lemon, *Untitled*, 2021. Oil and acrylic on paper, 26 × 40 in. (66.1 × 101.6 cm). Image courtesy the artist

Denyse Thomasos, *Displaced Burial / Burial at Gorée*, 1993. Acrylic on canvas, 108 × 216 in. (274.3 × 548.6 cm). Image courtesy the Estate of Denyse Thomasos and Olga Korper Gallery, Toronto

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Woody De Othello, study for *The will to make things happen*, 2021. Image courtesy the artist; Jessica Silverman, San Francisco; and Karma, New York