FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN  |  5 EAST 89TH ST NEW YORK NY 10128  |  212 369 4880  |  NATIONALACADEMY.ORG

NATIONAL ACADEMY INDUCTS LARGEST CLASS IN 25 YEARS, FIFTH LARGEST CLASS IN HISTORY

NEW YORK, NY—The National Academy of Design (NAD) proudly announces its newest class of National Academicians (NAs), the fifth largest in the organization’s nearly 200-year-old history.

Elected by current NAs in recognition of their exceptional contributions to American art and architecture, the Class of 2018 represents a commitment to preserving the cultural heritage of the United States and pushing creative boundaries.

The NA Class of 2018 joins a roster of over 400 living members, with more than 2,300 artists and architects elected since our founding in 1825. NAs include leaders in their respective fields today, such as David Adjaye, Marina Abramović, Chuck Close, Frank Gehry, Ann Hamilton, Joel Shapiro, Cindy Sherman, Shahzia Sikander, Robert A. M. Stern, Carrie Mae Weems, Nick Cave, Andres Serrano, and Annabelle Selldorf; seminal figures like Robert Rauschenberg, Jasper Johns, and Louise Bourgeois; and early pioneers such as Thomas Cole, Ithiel Town, Frederic Church, Winslow Homer, Augustus Saint-Gaudens, Cecilia Beaux, Thomas Eakins, and John Singer Sargent.

VISUAL ARTS

NJIDEKA AKUNYILI CROSBY  HERMINE FORD  DON PORCARO
SHIMON ATTIE  JUDY GLANTZMAN  JOYCE J. SCOTT
MEL CHIN  LISA HOKE  JANE SOUTH
DAWN CLEMENTS  DEBORAH KASS  HANK WILLIS THOMAS
CORA COHEN  BYRON KIM MARGIT  FRED TOMASELLI
PETAH COYNE  LEWCZUK  SARAH WALKER
PATRICIA CRONIN  JUDITH LINHARES  KAY WALKINGSTICK
MARTHA DIAMOND  DEBORAH LUSTER  PETER WILLIAMS
ANGELA DUFRESNE  VIK MUNIZ  JIMMY WRIGHT

ARCHITECTURE

MARLON BLACKWELL (MARLON BLACKWELL ARCHITECTS)
MERRILL ELAM (MACK SCOGIN MERRILL ELAM ARCHITECTS)
KATHRYN GUSTAFSON + JENNIFER GUTHRIE + SHANNON NICHOL (GGN)
STEPHEN KIERAN + JAMES TIMBERLAKE (KIERANTIMBERLAKE)
FUMIHIKO MAKI (MAKI AND ASSOCIATES)
JAMES WINES (SITE)

Front row, left to right: Kay WalkingStick, Jimmy Wright, Lisa Hoke, Peter Williams, Joyce J. Scott, James Wines, Petah Coyne, Judith Linhares, Deborah Luster, and Deborah Kass

Not pictured: Shimon Attie, Mel Chin, Dawn Clements, Angela Dufresne, Kathryn Gustafson, Byron Kim, Fumihiko Maki, Vik Muniz, and Shannon Nichol, and Hank Willis Thomas

Election as an NA is the culmination of a thorough, substantive vetting process. Candidates are nominated confidentially by a current NA who presents an in-depth proposal that is supported by two other NAs. After weeks of study, deliberation, and discussion, votes are cast at the institution’s Annual Meeting, held each spring. Only NAs may participate in the process, and a minimum of 60% of the votes cast must be in favor of the candidates in order for them to be elected, making the election a unique, peer-driven honor that cannot be applied for or solicited.

As members, National Academicians serve as ambassadors for the arts in America. They show work in NAD exhibitions, foster the next generation through our educational programs, and, in keeping with an almost 200-year-old tradition, contribute a work to our collection. The NAD permanent collection of nearly 8,000 works—unlike any other in the United States, shaped by the National Academician members themselves—represents one of the nation’s most significant holdings of American art and architecture.
ABOUT THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN
The National Academy of Design has a simple yet powerful mission, “to promote American art and architecture through exhibition and instruction.” Founded in 1825 by a group of artists that included Thomas Cole, Samuel F. B. Morse, and Asher B. Durand, the NAD is an honor society of America’s top artists and architects – the National Academicians – as well as a presenter of arts and an agent of arts education. Over the decades, the NAD has enriched and educated countless generations of artists and architects, while preserving and sharing the work of the National Academicians with the public.

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