Converge 45 Announces Artist List for 2023 Biennial

*Social Forms: Art as Global Citizenship*

The exhibition opens August 24, 2023 with new commissions and major activations by 50+ artists at 15 sites across Portland.


**Portland, OR — February 22, 2023 — Converge 45**, the Portland-based, non-profit arts organization is proud to announce the artist list for the upcoming iteration of its biennial program. Opening across the Portland metro area on **August 24, 2023**, and remaining on view through the fall of 2023, this citywide exhibition will feature the work of more than **50 artists and artist collectives** in partnership with more than **15 museums, cultural spaces, and public sites**.
Organized by writer and curator Christian Viveros-Fauné, Social Forms centers on the idea of art-as-a-social-form: contemporary and historical artworks that take the measure of their era in order to respond directly to the challenges of their time. Grounded in the current socio-political landscape as well as in regional and global histories, this expansive exhibition asks us to consider global power shifts taking place in contemporary society. Social Forms: Art as Global Citizenship is designed to promote increased citizenship during a period of political polarization and retrenchment of civil liberties—where citizenship is a term used not to denote privileged political status but to propose a more inclusive category of belonging in the world.

The title of the exhibition is drawn from Social Forms: A Short History of Political Art, Viveros-Fauné’s 2018 book that profiles how artists have historically been at the forefront of political and social resistance. “There are several ideas behind the show,” Viveros-Fauné says. “Firstly, we want to reflect the many ways artists are working to understand the present moment. Second, we believe it’s important to place these artists and their works in conversation with examples of art-as-a-social-form from the 1960s onward. Lastly, Converge 45 and its partners want to locate Portland front and center as an imperfect but progressive American city where the era’s principal themes can be uniquely addressed through forward-looking cultural production.”

Many of the artists featured in Converge 45’s biennial are exhibiting or producing major new works. Marie Watt, a key Pacific Northwest artist who is a member of the Seneca Nation, will display a major new public artwork for the city of Portland. Richard Mosse will launch the U.S. debut of his major new film and photographic project, Broken Spectre—filmed in remote parts of the Brazilian Amazon, this immersive installation charts the ongoing degradation of “the world’s lungs,” and is the result of three years of careful documentation of environmental crimes using a range of scientific imaging technologies.

Another highlight will be Malcolm Peacock’s profoundly affecting sculptural installation that explores themes of safety for Black individuals, especially as these relate to the history of Portland. The biennial will also feature a mini-survey of the work of the late painter and printmaker Hung Liu—the Chinese-American artist who foregrounded immigrants, the working class, women and marginalized and misrepresented communities in her groundbreaking work; an exhibition of the rarely seen canvases of Black painter, poet and writer Jesse Murry, curated by painter Lisa Yuskavage and critic Jarrett Earnest; and an important historical exhibition of art-as-a-social-form drawn entirely from the collection of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation.

The program will also present the work of Frieze’s Impact Prize winner, Narsiso Martinez, whose groundbreaking artworks spotlight the precarious experiences of marginalized and misrepresented immigrant communities in the U.S and abroad.

“Christian Viveros-Fauné has developed a timely and thoughtful program with Social Forms, weaving together the work of artists locally and across the globe, across issues and decades. This collection of exhibitions shows art truly functioning as activism, prompting shifts in our
individual perspectives and creating a record of the global collective experience,” said Margaret Burke, Executive Director of Converge 45. “It is a valuable moment to draw people to Portland and to bring Portlanders out for the arts.”

The artists participating in Social Forms represent a range of practices and media, including painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, textile, printmaking, installation, sound and film, as well as projects that emphasize collaboration with local communities and cultural organizations. Audiences can expect an array of solo and group presentations which unite local, national, and international creative perspectives to examine themes of ecological degradation, indigeneity, displacement, race and representation, migration, and intergenerational dialogues.

The complete artist list of Social Forms: Art as Global Citizenship is as follows:

Seba Calfuqueo (b. 1991, Santiago, Chile, lives in Santiago, Chile)
Anna Gray + Ryan Wilson Paulsen (b. 1983, Portland, OR; b. 1979, Hartford, CT, live in Portland, OR)
Peter Gronquist (b. 1979, Portland, OR)
Sam Hamilton (b. 1952, Auckland, New Zealand, lives in Portland, OR)
Amanda Ross Ho (b. 1975, Chicago, IL, lives in Los Angeles, CA)
Jessica Jackson Hutchins (b. 1971, Chicago, IL)
Malia Jensen (b. 1966, Honolulu, HI, lives in Portland, OR)
Yishai Jusidman (b. 1963, Mexico City, Mexico, lives in Los Angeles, CA)
Hung Liu (b. 1948, Changchun, China, d. 2021, Oakland, CA)
Narsiso Martinez (b. 1977, Oaxaca, Mexico)
Richard Mosse (b. 1980, Kilkenny, Ireland, lives in New York)
Jesse Murry (b. 1948, Fayetteville, North Carolina; d. 1993, New York)
Malcolm Peacock (b. 1994, Raleigh, NC, lives in New Orleans, LA)
Bosco Sodi (b. 1970, Mexico City, Mexico, lives in New York City, NY)
Jorge Tacla (b. 1958, Santiago, Chile, lives in New York City, NY)
Rodrigo Valenzuela (b. 1982, Santiago, Chile, lives in Los Angeles, CA)
Marie Watt (b. 1967, Seattle, Washington, lives in Portland, OR)

Assembly (Across C45 Pearl District Venues)

Karlo Andrei Ibarra (b. 1982, San Juan, Puerto Rico, lives in San Juan, Puerto Rico)
Adriene Cruz (b. 1953, New York City, NY, lives in Portland, OR)
Patrick Hamilton (b. 1974, Leuven, Belgium, lives in Madrid, Spain)
Lisa Jarrett (b. 1977, Morristown, NJ, lives in Portland, OR)
Nicola López (b. 1975, Santa Fe, NM, lives in New York City, NY)
Brian Maguire (b. 1951, Dublin, Ireland, lives in Dublin, Ireland)
Jeremy Okai Davis (b. 1979, Charlotte, NC, lives in Portland, OR)
Anastasia Samoylova (b. 1984 Moscow, Russia, lives in Miami, Florida)
Sara Siestreem (b. 1976 Springfield, OR, lives in Portland, OR)
Judith Wyss (b. 1938, Spokane, WA, lives in Portland, OR)
We Are the Revolution (At C45 Partnering Venue Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation)

Derrick Adams (b. 1970, Baltimore, MD, lives in New York City, NY)
Joseph Albers (b. 1888, Bottrop, Germany, d. 1976, New Haven, CT)
Polly Apfelbaum (b. 1955, Abington Township, PA)
Romare Bearden (b. 1911, Charlotte, NC, d. 1988, New York, NY)
Joseph Beuys (b. 1921, Krefeld, Germany, d. 1986, Düsseldorf, Germany)
John Buck (b. 1946, Ames, IA)
Robert Colescott (b. 1925, Oakland, CA, d. 2009, Tucson, AZ)
Joe Feddersen (b. 1953, Omak, WA, lives in Omak, WA)
Charles Gaines (b. 1944, Charleston, SC)
Ellen Gallagher (b. 1965, Providence, RI, lives in Rotterdam, Holland)
vanessa german (b. 1976, Milwaukee, WI, lives in Pittsburgh, PA)
Hans Haacke (b. 1936, Cologne, Germany, lives in New York City, NY)
Jenny Holzer (b. 1950, Gallipolis, OH, lives in New York City, NY)
Robert Indiana (b. 1928, New Castle, IN, d. 2018, Vinalhaven, ME)
Jasper Johns (b. 1930, Augusta, GA, lives in Sharon, CT)
Titus Kaphar (b. 1976, Kalamazoo, MI)
Dinh Q. Lê (b. 1968, Hà Tiên, Vietnam, lives in Hà Tiên, Vietnam)
James Lavadour (b. 1951, Pendleton, OR, lives in Umatilla, OR)
Roy Lichtenstein (b. 1923, New York City, NY, d. 1997, New York, NY)
Robert Longo (b. 1953, New York City, NY, lives in New York City, NY)
James Luna (b. 1950, Orange, CA, d. 2018, New Orleans, LA)
Bruce Nauman (b. 1941, Fort Wayne, IN, lives in Galisteo, NM)
Robert Rauschenberg (b. 1925, Port Arthur, TX, d. 2008, Captiva, FL)
Alison Saar (b. 1956, Los Angeles, CA, lives in Los Angeles, CA)
Zorawar Sidhu and Rob Swainston (b. 1985, Ludhiana, India; b. 1970, Mechanicsburg, PA)
Roger Shimomura (b. 1939, Seattle, WA, lives in Lawrence, KS)
Mickalene Thomas (b. 1971, Camden, NJ, lives in New York City, NY)
Hank Willis Thomas (b. 1976, Plainfield, NJ)
Kara Walker (b. 1969, Stockton, CA)
Andy Warhol (b. 1928, Pittsburgh, PA, d. 1987, New York City, NY)
Kehinde Wiley (b. 1977, Los Angeles, CA, lives in New York City, NY)

Key partners and presenting venues for the upcoming biennial program include:

For more information on Converge 45 and Social Forms, please visit converge45.org

About Converge 45
Converge 45 is a non-profit arts organization that produces a Contemporary Arts Biennial in Portland, Oregon. In collaboration with a dynamic community of artists, organizations, galleries, corporate partners, alternative venues and a guest curator, Converge 45 develops a citywide exhibition across the metropolitan area every two years. The biennial intersects regional, national and international perspectives around art and the futures it seeks. Outside of the biennial program, the organization works in continued collaboration with community partners to support Portland’s creative ecosystem by promoting the work of artists & organizations in the Pacific Northwest and improving access to broader art discourses within our communities.

About Christian Viveros-Fauné
Christian Viveros-Fauné (Santiago, Chile, 1965) has worked as a gallerist, art fair director, art critic, and curator since 1994. He was awarded the University of South Florida’s Kennedy Family Visiting Fellowship in 2018, a Creative Capital/Warhol Foundation Grant in 2009 and named Critic in Residence at the Bronx Museum in 2011. He co-founded The Brooklyn Rail in 1999, wrote art criticism for the Village Voice from 2008 to 2016, and has additionally served as Art and Culture Critic for artnet news, Chief Critic for Artland and Sotheby’s in other words. He has lectured widely at institutions such as Yale University, Pratt University and Holland’s Gerrit Rietveld Academie. He currently serves as Curator-at-Large at the University of South Florida Contemporary Art Museum. He was recently named 2023 Ekhard Scholar-in-Residence at Bucknell University. He is also the author of several books. His most recent, Social Forms: A Short History of Political Art, was published by David Zwirner Books in 2018.

About margaret burke
margaret burke is an arts professional who recently relocated to Portland after a decade spent in the creative ecosystem in Austin, TX. With a dynamic background in fundraising and operations, margaret has been fortunate to professionally support the work of artists and creatives for 15 years. Her career began in a traditional museum fundraising role in Washington, DC which led her to pursue a Master's Degree at the University of Texas at Austin. In Austin, she earned her MA in Art Education and a certificate in non-profit management and social entrepreneurship through the LBJ School of Public Affairs. margaret has produced programs for the international art and technology festival South by Southwest; designed education programs for Landmarks Public Art pieces, including Ann Hamilton's O N E E V E R Y O N E and James Turrell's The Color Inside; managed membership and giving programs for the Harry Ransom Center and Fusebox Festival; and headed the development program at The Contemporary Austin.

About Derek Franklin
Derek Franklin (b. St. Helens, Oregon 1981) is the founding director of SE Cooper Contemporary and Artistic Director of Converge 45. Recent solo and two-person exhibitions include To Leave No Trace, (Williamson Knight, Portland), Standing Around Waiting to Inhale, (Anytime Department, Cincinnati) Eyes (Ditch Projects), Gray Minstrel (Carl and Sloan
Contemporary, Portland), *Mending Capers* (Thierry Goldberg, New York), and *Meditation Furniture for Ten Minute Breaks* (Document, Chicago). Franklin's works have also been presented in exhibitions at Rawson Projects (New York), Soloway (New York), Y Gallery, (New York), Neter Gallery (Mexico City) Thierry Goldberg (New York), Andel31 (Copenhagen), Simone Subal Gallery (New York), Melanie Flood Projects (Portland), Performa Biennial (New York), and The Center for Creative Research (Oregon). Franklin was a former partner and director at the artist-run space Soloway in Brooklyn, NY. He received his BFA from the Pacific Northwest College of Art and his MFA from Mason Gross School of Art at Rutgers University. Franklin has previously served as faculty at University of Oregon, Marylhurst University, Rutgers, and Lewis and Clark College.

**Press Contacts**

Emma Frohardt  
Account Executive, Cultural Counsel  
emmma@culturalcounsel.com

Jo Urtasun  
Account Coordinator, Cultural Counsel  
joana@culturalcounsel.com