



**DISJECTA ANNOUNCES
SELECTED ARTISTS
FOR PORTLAND2012: A BIENNIAL OF CONTEMPORARY ART**

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Image: Akihiko Miyoshi, Detail from *Abstract Photograph*, 2011

PORTLAND, Ore. – Thursday, Dec. 22, 2011 - Disjecta Interdisciplinary Art Center is pleased to announce the following twenty-four artists and artist teams selected by curator Prudence F. Roberts for Portland2012: A Biennial of Contemporary Art:

Ben Buswell
Vanessa Calvert
Sang-ah Choi
Daniel Duford
Future Death Toll
Erik Geschke
Brian Gillis
Anna Gray & Ryan Wilson Paulsen

Hand2Mouth Theater
Grant Hottle
Ariana Jacob
Arnold Kemp
Chris Knight
Cynthia Lahti
Matt McCormick
Mack McFarland

Akihiko Miyoshi
Wendy Red Star
Vanessa Renwick
Ben Rosenberg
Jack Ryan
Susan Seubert
Marie Sivak
Dustin Zemel

Roberts reviewed 280 applications and made roughly 50 studio visits in her selection process. The 24 artists represent a broad range of contemporary practice including emerging and mid-career artists with varying approaches from craft traditions to social practice, installation, photography, painting and



film/video. A majority of the selected artists will exhibit work not previously shown in Portland or create new works specifically for the Biennial.

Says Roberts, "It has been an equal challenge and pleasure to select the artists for Portland2012 because of the rigor of artistic practice I found coalescing around Portland as well the University of Oregon in Eugene. Many of the artists I visited are working with a deep awareness of art history, even though they are questioning the canon, as it were. I am fascinated by how much work questions the act of perception and the veracity of image, sound, or text. Another theme that emerged for me is that of history and narrative, both personal and political: several pieces in Portland2012 draw upon material from extended and ongoing scholarly research."

A major survey of work by visual artists who are defining and advancing the contemporary arts landscape, Portland2012 will include exhibitions, events and performances in multiple Portland locations February 26 through May 26, 2012. Venues include Disjecta, PDX Across the Hall, The Art Gym at Marylhurst University, Portland Community College Rock Creek and The White Box at The University of Oregon in Portland.

Disjecta developed the Biennial program to promote the vigorous quality of the visual arts scene in Portland, including artists living throughout the state. The exhibition will be supported by a catalog and artist talks. The curator's vision is a key component of Disjecta's Biennial. Each incarnation is a fully realized exhibition that speaks to the strengths and interests of an invited guest curator. Roberts is an instructor of art history at Portland Community College. She has curated, consulted and contributed essays for exhibitions at the Center on Contemporary Art, Seattle, the Hallie Ford Museum of Art, The Art Gym at Marylhurst University and The Portland Art Museum, where she served as curator of American Art from 1987 to 2000.

Portland2012 will be the second iteration of the exhibition presented by Disjecta, building on a long history of biennials initially started by the Portland Art Museum in 1949, and continued until 2006, when the Museum's exhibition transformed to the more regionally minded Contemporary Northwest Art Awards. For included artists, Portland2012 offers opportunities for critical response from media and peers, new audiences, patrons, and future exhibition opportunities. The venues will allow artists the space and flexibility to develop work specifically for this opportunity.

Portland2012 is supported by The Ford Family Foundation, Oregon Arts Commission, The Regional Arts and Culture Council, The Oregon Cultural Trust, Milepost 5, Plazm Design, TriMet, Willamette Week, and partner sponsors The Art Gym at Marylhurst University, PDX Across the Hall, Portland Community College Rock Creek and University of Oregon's White Box.

ABOUT DISJECTA

Disjecta Interdisciplinary Art Center is a nonprofit organization in Portland, Ore. that provides essential resources for artists to create and exhibit new work. Disjecta houses an expansive exhibition space for the presentation of vital visual and performing arts at the local, regional, national and international level that speaks to the region's diverse interests, talents and identities.

Disjecta forms a bridge between Portland's larger arts institutions and smaller, grassroots organizations and galleries. Our reach extends far beyond the arts and encompasses the true essence of a cultural facility: a place where ideas, dialogue, creativity and diversity flourish. For more information, visit www.disjecta.org.

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