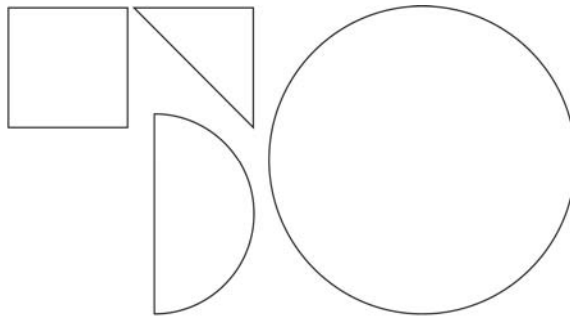


THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM



NEWS RELEASE

CONTEMPLATING THE VOID: INTERVENTIONS IN THE GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM

An Anniversary Benefit Exhibition

Nearly 200 Artists, Architects, and Designers Imagine Dream Interventions in the Guggenheim Museum as Finale to 50th Anniversary Year

Venue: Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, 1071 Fifth Avenue, New York
Dates: February 12–April 28, 2010
Preview: Friday, February 12, 2010, 9–11 am

NEW YORK, NY (December 17, 2009)—Since its opening in 1959, the Frank Lloyd Wright–designed Guggenheim building has served as an inspiration for invention, challenging artists and architects to react to its eccentric, organic design. The central void of the rotunda has elicited many unique responses over the years, which have been manifested in both site-specific solo shows and memorable exhibition designs. For the building’s 50th anniversary, the Guggenheim Museum invited more than two hundred artists, architects, and designers to imagine their dream interventions in the space for the exhibition *Contemplating the Void: Interventions in the Guggenheim Museum*. Organized by Nancy Spector, Deputy Director and Chief Curator, Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, and David van der Leer, Assistant Curator for Architecture and Design, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, the exhibition will feature renderings of these visionary projects in a salon-style installation that will emphasize the rich and diverse range of the proposals received. *Contemplating the Void: Interventions in the Guggenheim Museum* will be on view at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum from February 12 to April 28, 2010.

Aristotle famously pronounced that nature abhors a vacuum, an idea that still resonates in art today. In designing the Guggenheim Museum, Wright flaunted the notion of the void, leaving the center tantalizingly (or threateningly) empty. Over the years, when creating site-specific installations or exhibition designs for the building, artists and architects have imbued the space with their presences, inspiring unforgettable works by Matthew Barney, Cai Guo-Qiang, Frank Gehry, Jenny Holzer, and Nam June Paik, among others. For the building’s 50th anniversary, the Guggenheim invited scores of artists, architects and designers to leave practicality or even reality behind in conjuring their proposals for the space. In this exhibition of ideal projects, certain themes emerge, including the return to nature in its primordial state, the desire to climb the building, the interplay of light and space, the interest in diaphanous effects as a counterpoint to the concrete structure, and the impact of sound on the

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environment. Conceived as both a commemoration and a self-reflexive folly, *Contemplating the Void* confirms how truly catalytic the architecture of the Guggenheim can be.

Submissions were received from all over the world from a wide range of artists, designers, and architects, including emerging as well as established practitioners. Among the many works in the exhibition are projects by artists Alice Aycock, FAKE DESIGN (Ai Weiwei), Anish Kapoor, Sarah Morris, Wangechi Mutu, Mike Nelson, Paul Pfeiffer, Doris Salcedo, Lawrence Weiner, and Rachel Whiteread; designers such as Fernando and Humberto Campana, Martí Guixé, Joris Laarman Studio, and Studio Job; and architects such as Álvaro Siza Vieira Arquitecto, BIG (Bjarke Ingels Group), Greg Lynn FORM, junya.ishigami+associates, MVRDV, N55, Philippe Rahm, Snøhetta, Studio Daniel Libeskind, Toyo Ito & Associates, Architects, and West 8. In addition to the exhibition in the Thannhauser and Annex Level 4 galleries, *Contemplating the Void* will be accompanied by a comprehensive exhibition Web site, which will document each submission and feature introductory essays texts by Nancy Spector and David van der Leer.

BENEFIT EVENT

March 4, 2010

Contemplating the Void: Interventions in the Guggenheim Museum will also function as a 50th anniversary fundraiser for the museum. Many of the works on view will be sold through silent auction conducted during a benefit event on March 4, 2010, with an online component so that those who are unable to attend may participate. More than 95% of the artists featured in *Contemplating the Void* have gifted their works to this endeavor, and proceeds from the sale will support the museum's exhibition programming. For more information about the benefit event and auction, contact Ben Whine, Associate Director of Individual Development, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, at bwhine@guggenheim.org or visit guggenheim.org/new-york/196-membership/3225-contemplating-the-void-auction-preview.

WORKS & PROCESS AT THE GUGGENHEIM

Hypermusic: Ascension

Thursday, March 11, 6:30 and 8:30 pm

In conjunction with the exhibition, Works & Process at the Guggenheim presents *Hypermusic: Ascension*. Harvard physicist Lisa Randall, Spanish composer Hèctor Parra, and artist Matthew Ritchie collaborate on this new site-specific monodrama in the rotunda, which inverts and reinvigorates the genre of opera with an experimental score suggesting the expanding reality of a fifth dimension.

For more information about this program, contact Duke Dang, General Manager of Works & Process at the Guggenheim at ddang@worksandprocess.org or 212 758 0024.

\$30; \$25 Guggenheim Members; \$10 Students (25 and under with valid student ID).

For tickets, call the Box Office at 212 423 3587, Monday–Friday, 1–5 pm, or visit worksandprocess.org.

About the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation

Founded in 1937, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation is dedicated to promoting the understanding and appreciation of art, primarily of the modern and contemporary periods, through exhibitions, education programs, research initiatives, and publications. Currently the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation owns and operates the Guggenheim Museum on Fifth Avenue in New York and the Peggy Guggenheim Collection on the Grand Canal in Venice, and also provides programming and management for two other museums in Europe that bear its name: the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao and the Deutsche Guggenheim in Berlin. The Guggenheim Abu Dhabi Museum, a museum of modern and contemporary art designed by architect Frank Gehry, is scheduled to open in 2013.

Admission: Adults \$18, students/seniors (65+) \$15, members and children under 12 free. Admission includes audio-guide tour.

Museum Hours: Sun–Wed 10 am–5:45 pm, Fri 10 am–5:45 pm, Sat 10 am–7:45 pm, closed Thurs. On Saturdays, beginning at 5:45 pm, the museum hosts Pay What You Wish. For general information call 212 423 3500 or visit guggenheim.org.

#1143 –February 10, 2010 (Updated from December 17, 2009)

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT
Betsy Ennis, Director of Media and Public Relations
Claire Laporte, Publicist
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum
212 423 3840
pressoffice@guggenheim.org

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An Anniversary Benefit Exhibition

February 12–April 28, 2010

24H Architecture
Adel Abdessemed
Acconci Studio (Vito Acconci)
Adamo-Faiden
Doug Aitken
Ricci Albenda
Alexander Gorlin Architects
Allied Works Architecture
Jennifer Allora & Guillermo Calzadilla
David Altmejd
Álvaro Siza Vieira Arquitecto
Amanda Levette Architects
Cory Arcangel
Archi-Tectonics (Winka Dubbeldam)
Associates for Architecture and Environment (A.A.E)
Asymptote Architecture (Hani Rashid)
Alice Aycock
Bade Stageberg Cox (BSC)
Alwar Balasubramaniam
Ball-Nogues Studio
Barkow Leibinger Architects
Bernard Tschumi Architects
BIG (Bjarke Ingels Group)
Stefano Boeri
Bolles+Wilson
Christian Boltanski
Carol Bove
Christoph Büchel
Luca Buvoli
Cao Fei
Claire Fontaine
Peter Coffin
E.V. Day
Stephen Dean
Dominic Stevens Architect
Dror Benshetrit
Sam Durant
Michael Elmgreen & Ingar Dragset
FAKE DESIGN (Ai Weiwei)
FAR frohn&rojas
Fernando and Humberto Campana
Terunobu Fujimori
Ga.A Architects + moongyu Choi
Gans Studio (Deborah Gans and Joshua Stern)
Carlos Garaicoa
Kendell Geers
Giancarlo Mazzanti Arquitectos
Gigon/Guyer Architekten

Liam Gillick
Gluckman Mayner Architects
Andy Goldsworthy
Greg Lynn FORM
group8
Gu Wenda
Martí Guixé
Shilpa Gupta
Subodh Gupta
Fritz Haeg
Mark Handforth
Hariri & Hariri Architecture
Mona Hatoum
Herrerros Arquitectos
Thomas Hirschhorn
Elliott Hundley
Pierre Huyghe
HWKN (Hollwichkushner)
Inside Outside (Petra Blaisse)
Jim Isermann
Itami Jun Architects Co., Ltd.
IwamotoScott Architecture
J. Mayer H. (Jürgen Mayer)
Koo Jeong-A
Joris Laarman Studio
Julien De Smedt Architects (JDS)
junya.ishigami+associates
Chris Kabel
Amar Kanwar
Anish Kapoor
Matt Keegan
Kengo Kuma & Associates
Jon Kessler
Karen Kilimnik
Kimsooja
LAR Fernando Romero
Leeser Architecture
L.E.FT Architecture
LOT-EK
Luzinterruptus
M/M
MAD Architects (Yansong Ma)
Takashi Yamaguchi & Associates
Mark Manders
The Map Office
Christian Marclay
Kris Martin
Mass Studies
Massimiliano Fuksas Architetto
Maurer United Architects (MUA)
Anthony McCall
Josiah McElheny

Barry McGee
Josephine Meckseper
Jonathan Meese
Mathieu Mercier
Annette Messenger
Michael Maltzan Architecture
Aleksandra Mir
Mary Miss
Sarah Morris
Dave Muller
Bruce Munro
Wangechi Mutu
MVRDV
N55
nARCHITECTS
Neil M. Denari Architects (NMDA)
Mike Nelson
Carsten Nicolai
Ted Noten
OBRA Architects
Odile Decq Benoît Cornette Architects and Planners
Office dA
Office for Subversive Architecture (OSA)
Olson Kundig Architects
Damián Ortega
Oyler Wu Collaborative
Adrian Paci
Paulo David Arquitecto
Peter Marino Architect
Paul Pfeiffer
Susan Philipsz
Paola Pivi
Powerhouse Company
Qiu Zhijie
Walid Raad
Philippe Rahm
Recetas Urbanas
Reiser + Umemoto RUR Architecture
Richard Meier & Partners Architects
Pipilotti Rist
Matthew Ritchie
Martha Rosler
Mika Rottenberg
Sterling Ruby
Doris Salcedo
Karin Sander
Saunders Architecture
Hans Schabus
SeARCH
SelgasCano
Sudarshan Shetty
Yinka Shonibare

Alyson Shotz
Snøhetta
Solid Objectives–Idenburg Liu (SO-IL)
Sou Fujimoto Architects
Stan Allen Architect
Aleksandra Stratimirovic
Studio Arne Quinze
Studio Daniel Libeskind
Studio Job
Hiroshi Sugimoto
Sarah Sze
TAKUYAHOSOKAI
Tezuka Architects
THEVERYMANY
Todd Williams Billie Tsien Architects
Torafu Architects
Toshiko Mori Architect
Toyo Ito & Associates, Architects
Triptyque Architecture
Tronic Studio
UNStudio (Ben van Berkel)
URBANUS Architecture & Design
Patricia Urquiola
Leo Villareal
Madelon Vriesendorp
Nari Ward
Phoebe Washburn
Lawrence Weiner
Weiss/Manfredi
Andro Wekua
Wendy Evans Joseph Architecture
West 8
Pae White
Rachel Whiteread
T. J. Wilcox
Lebbeus Woods
WORKac
WW Architecture
Cerith Wyn Evans
Zaha Hadid Architects
Zhang Huan