GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM ANNOUNCES WINNERS FOR ROB PRUITT’S 2010 ART AWARDS

Pruitt’s Second Annual Performance-Based Artwork Presented 15 Awards in Contemporary Art Including Lifetime Achievement for Jonas Mekas and Martha Rosler, and Artist-Educator Achievement to Marilyn Minter at a Ceremony on December 8

(NEW YORK, NY – December 9, 2010) – At an awards ceremony and dinner on December 8, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum announced the winners of Rob Pruitt’s 2010 Art Awards, the second annual celebration honoring notable individuals, exhibitions, and projects that made a significant contribution to the field of contemporary art during the past year. Awards in 15 categories were presented at a fundraising event benefiting the Guggenheim Foundation and visual arts nonprofit White Columns on Wednesday, December 8, 2010, at the nightclub and music venue Webster Hall.

Artist Rob Pruitt, whose conceptual practice is rooted in a pop sensibility and a playful critique of art-world structures, conceived the event as a performance-based artwork that follows the format of a Hollywood awards ceremony. Designed with a flourish of showbiz glamour, the Art Awards harness the energy and accomplishments of the international arts community while simultaneously supporting two of its institutions.

A group of more than 1,000 artists and arts professionals were invited to form an anonymous Art Awards Council to nominate and then vote upon four nominees in categories that focus primarily on exhibitions and projects that took place over the past year (July 2009 to July 2010), in the United States, as well as one category recognizing an international exhibition. The Rob Pruitt Award was decided solely by the artist. The winners for each category are:

Alternative Space of the Year
WINNER: Artists Space, New York
179 Canal, New York
Cleopatra’s, Brooklyn, New York
Light Industry, Brooklyn, New York

Alternative Project of the Year
WINNER: INDEPENDENT, New York
Apartment Show, various locations, New York
edia Int’l Group, Foundation Barbin, New York
Jennifer Rubell, Creation, Performa 09, New York

**Artist of the Year**
**WINNER:** Louise Bourgeois
Marina Abramović
John Baldessari
Trisha Donnelly

**Blogger or Critic of the Year**
**WINNER:** Jerry Saltz
Howard Halle
Paddy Johnson
Linda Yablonsky

**Curator of the Year**
**WINNER:** Chrissie Iles
Massimiliano Gioni
Laura Hoptman
Neville Wakefield

**Exhibition outside the United States**
**WINNER:** John Baldessari: Pure Beauty, Tate Modern, London (in association with Los Angeles County Museum of Art)
Rosemarie Trockel: Deliquescence of the Mother, Kunsthalle Zürich
Felix Gonzalez-Torres: Specific Objects without Specific Form, Wiels Contemporary Art Centre, Brussels
Matthew Barney: Prayer Sheet with the Wound and the Nail, Schaulager, Basel

**Group Show of the Year, Gallery**
Lush Life, various locations, New York
Picture Industry (Goodbye to All That), Regen Projects, Los Angeles
Your History Is Not Our History: New York in the 1980s, Haunch of Venison, New York

**Group Show of the Year, Museum**
At Home/Not At Home: Works from the Collection of Martin and Rebecca Eisenberg, Hessel Museum of Art, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York
Greater New York, MoMA P.S. 1, Long Island City, New York

**New Artist of the Year**
**WINNER:** Tauba Auerbach
The Rob Pruitt Award
WINNER: Lena Dunham

Solo Show of the Year, Gallery
WINNER: Trisha Donnelly, Casey Kaplan Gallery, New York
Claude Monet: Late Work, Gagosian Gallery, New York
Gelitin: Blind Sculpture, Greene Naftali Gallery, New York
Jonathan Horowitz: Go Vegan! Gavin Brown’s Enterprise, New York

Solo Show of the Year, Museum
Otto Dix, Neue Galerie, New York
Yves Klein: With the Void, Full Powers, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., and Walker Art Center, Minneapolis

In addition, Lifetime Achievement Awards were awarded to Jonas Mekas and Martha Rosler. The Artist-Educator Achievement Award, a new distinction added for this year’s celebration, was presented to Marilyn Minter.

Writer, editor, and downtown fixture Glenn O’Brien presided over the event as the Master of Ceremonies. The event script was penned by Pruitt and O’Brien, along with writers David Colman, Amy Kellner, and Linda Yablonsky. The awards—black-and-white silk-screened paintings of an engraved trophy designed by Pruitt—were distributed by a distinguished cast of presenters, including Bill Powers, Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn, and Jerry Saltz of the Bravo television series Work of Art; musician Michael Stipe and Michael Ward Stout, President, Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation; Mary Heilmann, the 2009 “Artist of the Year”; artist Marina Abramović and Klaus Biesenbach, Director of MoMA P.S. 1; artists John Currin and Rachel Feinstein; artists Lizzie Bougatsos and Spencer Sweeney; Nancy Spector, Deputy Director and Chief Curator, Guggenheim Museum; and Matthew Higgs, Director, White Columns, among others.

The evening also featured performances by artists Martin Creed and Kalup Linzy. The commissioned Art Awards theme song and other original music were composed by Matthew Friedberger and His Orchestra, who played at the event. Tribute films created by YorgoAlexopoulos were screened as part of the ceremony. Dinner was provided by Roberta’s, of Bushwick, Brooklyn. Table décor was created by Pruitt along with fellow artists John Baldessari, Terence Koh, Jeff Koons, and Josh Smith. An after-party following the presentation featured music by Rub-N-Tug.
Proceeds from the 2010 Art Awards will benefit the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation and White Columns. Please visit guggenheim.org/artawards for further information. Video highlights from the ceremony will be posted a few weeks after the event.

About Rob Pruitt

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 provides programming and management for the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao. The Deutsche Guggenheim in Berlin is the result of a collaboration, begun in 1997, between the Guggenheim Foundation and Deutsche Bank. In 2013 the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, a 452,000-square-foot museum of modern and contemporary art designed by Frank Gehry, will open on Saadiyat Island, adjacent to the main island of Abu Dhabi city, the capital of the United Arab Emirates.

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