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Eureka Fellowship Program Fleishhacker Foundation

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December 11, 2016. San Francisco, CA - Twelve Bay Area artists will receive a Eureka Fellowship, the largest cash prize for individual artists in the Bay Area, sponsored by the Fleishhacker Foundation. Designed to help artists continue making work by supporting more uninterrupted creative time, these prestigious \$25,000 awards, based solely on artistic merit evidenced by previous work, are not restricted to specific projects.

This round's Fellowship recipients include Oakland artists **Desiree Holman, Ben Peterson, Robin Lasser,** and **Kate Rhoades**, and San Francisco artists **Josh Faught, Maria Elena González, Jamil Hellu,** collaborative team **Elizabeth Stephens & Annie Sprinkle, Tina Takemoto, Josephine Taylor, Richard Walker**, and Sausalito artist **Paolo Salvagione** (see bios below). This award cycle covers three years, with awards given to four of the twelve artists per year in 2017, 2018, and 2019. The grant stipulates that the artists remain in the Bay Area during the year of their award.

Over ninety artists applied for the Fellowships from a candidate pool created by forty local nonprofit visual arts organizations (see attached lists of nominating organizations). The nominated artists represent a wide range of the region's artistic talent, with work reflecting a broad cultural and stylistic variety. Nominees were limited to working artists, 25 years or older, who reside in one of nine Bay Area counties (San Francisco, Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Marin, Napa, and Sonoma).

A panel of three nationally known arts professionals judged the artists' works: **Bill Arning**, Executive Director of The Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, TX, **Kris Kuramitsu**, Deputy Director and Senior Curator of The Mistake Room, Los Angeles, CA, and **Rebecca Shoenthal**, Curator of Exhibitions for the Fralin Museum of Art at University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA. The panel (see bios below) reviewed the sample work without information about the artists' identity or professional history. The panel met in November 2016 at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco.

The Eureka Fellowships have recognized artistic excellence in the visual arts since 1986 (see attached list of recipients). In addition to making significant grants to individual artists, the Fleishhacker Foundation has supported Eureka exhibitions at the Berkeley Art Museum/Pacific Film Archive, the San Jose Museum of Art, the San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art, and the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego. The Foundation is currently working on a catalogue celebrating 30 years of Eureka Fellowships, which will feature the last 48 recipients of the award.

"At a time when the cost of living is soaring and funding for artists is decreasing, we are pleased to provide unrestricted support to allow Bay Area artists to follow their passion," said John Ehrlich, Foundation President. "Now, perhaps more than ever, artists help us reflect on our current conditions and provide us with unique ways of seeing and thinking about our place in the world."

Established in 1947, the Fleishhacker Foundation also makes grants to organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area in the fields of Arts & Culture and Precollegiate Education.

"Our out-of-town panelists and Bay Area nominating organizations recognize the Eureka Fellowship Program as

vital to the vibrancy of our visual arts community, and know such generous awards are increasingly rare. This direct support to artists' creative work is imperative to keeping the Bay Area's artistic dialogue alive," Program Director Amy Charles said. "We rely on the entire community to make this program a success, particularly our nominating arts professionals and organizations. We congratulate all of the artists who were nominated and submitted their work for the adjudication process. We also thank Yerba Buena Center for the Arts for their hospitality and support of our program."

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ARTIST BIOS

JOSH FAUGHT (2018)

Faught's practice combines textiles, pop cultural detritus, and archival materials to address the relationships between language, community, and constructions of identity. Recent solo museum exhibitions include the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, MO, the Seattle Art Museum in conjunction with the Betty Bowen Award, Seattle, WA, and a site-specific installation at the Neptune Society Columbarium as part of the San Francisco MoMA SECA Art Award Exhibition. Solo exhibitions also include Kendall Koppe Gallery, Glasgow, Poland, and at Lisa Cooley, New York, NY. His work has appeared in numerous group exhibitions including the Rose Art Museum, Waltham, MA, the Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, TX, and the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA. Faught is also a recipient of the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation grant, the San Francisco MOMA SECA award, and the Artadia Award. He received a MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and is currently an Associate Professor at the California College of the Arts in San Francisco and Oakland, CA.

MARIA ELENA GONZÁLEZ (2019)

González interweaves conceptual themes with strong dedication to craft in her complex installations and poetic arrangements, exploring issues such as identity, memory, and dislocation. The current *Tree Talk Series* depicts the potentials that the graphic process has to offer in this day and age. González traverses through the various expressive mediums such as print, performance, installation, and sound, to precisely and harmoniously join them into a whole that is anchored in its conceptual framework. Cuban-born, González earned a BFA from Florida International University in Miami, FL, and a MA in sculpture from San Francisco State University. She received widespread acclaim for her site-specific sculpture *Magic Carpet/Home* commissioned by the Public Art Fund, New York, NY, and also for her site specific work titled *You and Me*, commissioned by Storm King Art Center, New Windsor, NY. She has received numerous awards, including a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, the Prix de Rome from The American Academy in Rome, Italy, and most recently González's *Tree Talk Series* was awarded the Grand Prize in the 30th Ljubljana Biennial of Graphic Arts, MGLC-International Centre for Graphic Arts, Ljubljana, Slovenia.

ROBIN LASSER (2019)

Lasser produces photographs, video, site-specific installations, and public art dealing with environmental issues and social justice. She often works in a collaborative mode with other artists, writers, students, public agencies, community organizations, and international coalitions to produce public art and promote public dialogue. Her work is exhibited nationally and internationally. Recent international exhibitions include installations at the Metenkov Museum of Photography, Yekaterinburg, Russia, the Recoleta Cultural Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and the Caixa Cultural Center in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. Earlier national and international exhibitions include Parsons School of Design, New York, NY, Wave Hill Glyndor Gallery in the Bronx, NY, Los Angeles County Museum of Art Los Angeles, CA, the M.H. de Young Museum, San Francisco, and the Exploratorium Observation Gallery, San Francisco. Lasser received a BA in Design from UCLA and a MFA from Mills College in Oakland, CA. She is

currently a Professor of Art at San Jose State University.

JAMIL HELLU (2018)

Hellu is a multi-interdisciplinary visual artist whose work is a hybrid of self-portraiture and political narrative. His projects revolve largely around representations of cultural identity, particularly exploring interpretations of sexuality. His recent works bring the friction between Arab ethnicity and gay identity into focus, investigating the conflicts that emerge at the intersection of Middle-Eastern heritage and queerness. He has exhibited in varied venues including San Francisco City Hall, the Berkeley Art Center, Berkeley, CA, the Colorado Photographic Arts Center, Denver, CO, the Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco, CA, and Les Mots à la Bouche in Paris, France. Hellu was selected for the Kala Art Institute Fellowship in Berkeley, CA, and the Artist-in-Residence Program at Recology, San Francisco. He now serves as an advisory board member for Recology's selection committee. He received the Graduate Fellowship Award at Headlands Center for the Arts, Sausalito, CA, and was a resident artist at the Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, France. He holds a BFA in photography from the San Francisco Art Institute and a MFA in Art Practice from Stanford University where he teaches photography.

DESIREE HOLMAN (2017)

Holman's work spans video, performance, public, and gallery works. The process positions groups and theatrical tools such as costumes or props, in settings that illuminate ideas of identity. Underpinning the work is a creative investigation into social equality through the use of character play. Holman holds a MFA from UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, and a BFA from California College of the Arts, Oakland, CA. She has received the San Francisco MOMA SECA and Artadia awards. Solo exhibitions have been at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA, Montreal's Centre des Arts Actuals SKOL, Montreal, Canada, the Black Cube Museum, Denver, CO, and the Berkeley Art Museum/Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, CA. International exhibitions include the Sao Paulo Museum of Modern Art, Brazil, the Kunstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin, Germany, BnD of Milan, Italy, and YYY in Toronto, Canada. Reviews of Holman's work have been featured in publications including *Artforum*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Arts*, *Artillery*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, and *Artweek*. Her work is represented by CULT Exhibitions in San Francisco and Aspect/Ratio in Chicago. In 2017, Holman is returning to the San Francisco MOMA as a Film & Performance fellow.

BEN PETERSON (2019)

Peterson's current work consists of ceramic sculptures fired and painted to resemble archeological objects, or fragments of architecture. He has a BFA from the California College of the Arts, San Francisco, CA, and a MFA from Stanford University. Peterson's works are found in numerous public and private collections including the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY, the Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN, and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art, Philadelphia, PA. He is the recipient of the Pew Fellowship, and has been an artist in residence at the Headlands Center for the Arts, Sausalito, CA, as well as Ujazdowski Castle in Warsaw, Poland.

KATE RHOADES (2018)

Rhoades' videos, paintings, and publications probe the absurdity of the commercial, academic, and institutional facets of art. She deploys puppets, over-acting, cartoons, and slapstick to contrast the seriousness of the situations being analyzed. Her work has been exhibited at Recology, San Francisco, Trestle Gallery, Brooklyn, NY, and other venues such as alleys and hotel rooms in the U.S. and Canada. She has presented videos in the *San Francisco International Film Festival* and the *Santa Fe International New Media Festival*. Rhoades received a BFA from the Columbus College of Art and Design, Columbus, OH, and a MFA from Mills College, Oakland, CA. She is currently working on a new installment in her comic book series, *Kate and Katy*, with her partner and co-author, Katy Kondo.

PAOLO SALVAGIONE (2017)

Salvagione works at the intersection of engineering, participation, and levity. Most of his installation pieces are inherently participatory. Each is intended as an invitation to the audience to explore. Salvagione has sent studio visitors out a second-story window, and filled a World War I gymnasium with a mix of pure geometry and pure fun. He has exhibited at the Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco, CA, Walhalla Monument, Regensburg, Germany, and at numerous Bay Area galleries including Austin Burch, San Francisco, Aggregate Space, Oakland, CA, and MacArthur B Arthur, Oakland, CA. He has been an artist in residence at various Bay Area institutions including the Lucid Art Foundation, Inverness, CA, Autodesk Pier 9, San Francisco, CA, San Francisco Center for the Book, the Workshop Residence, San Francisco, CA, and Headlands Center for the Arts, Sausalito, CA. The former lead engineer on the *Clock of the Long Now*, Salvagione leads the Innovator-in-Residence program at Autodesk's Pier 9 campus in San Francisco.

ELIZABETH STEPHENS / ANNIE SPRINKLE (2019)

Stephens & Sprinkle have been partners and collaborators for 14 years, creating performances, film, and visual art. Their most recent project involved 22 performance art weddings with nature in nine countries, celebrating an "eco-sex" movement. Stephens has a background as an interdisciplinary artist and professor at University of California, Santa Cruz. Her work has explored themes of gender, queerness, and feminism. Sprinkle was a sex worker who morphed into an internationally known performance artist who toured one-woman shows about her life for fifteen years. Their award-winning documentary film about coal mining, *Goodbye Gauley Mountain - An Ecosexual Love Story*, was featured at many film festivals and is now on Netflix. Sprinkle received the Artist/Activist/Scholar Award from Performance Studies International, and the Acker Award for Achievement in the Avant Garde. Stephens is a Rydell Fellow and earned her Ph.D. in Performance Studies at University of California, Davis, in 2015. The duo has presented their work at art venues nationally and internationally, including the Walker Art Museum, Minneapolis, MN, the Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona, Spain, the Venice Biennale, Italy, and *Documenta 14*, Kassel, Germany. The *Ecosex Walking Tour* is currently touring, and they are working on a book about their work for University of Minnesota Press, titled *Assuming the Ecosexual Position*.

TINA TAKEMOTO (2018)

Takemoto is a multimedia artist exploring the intersections of race, queer identity, and memory through performance art and experimental video. Her work focuses on the hidden dimensions of same sex intimacy and queer sexuality in Asian American history. Takemoto has received grants from the James Irvine Foundation, the San Francisco Arts Commission, and the Japanese American Citizens League. Her films have screened at *Frameline*, San Francisco, CA, *Outfest*, Los Angeles, CA, *Ann Arbor Film Festival*, Ann Arbor, MI, *Rio Gay Film Festival*, Brazil, *MIX*, Milano, Italy, Seoul's *International Women's Film Festival*, Korea, and *Austin Gay & Lesbian International Film Festival*, Austin, TX, where she received the Best Experimental Jury Award. Takemoto is an associate professor at California College of the Arts, Oakland, CA, and co-founder of *Queer Conversations on Culture and the Arts*. She is completing a trilogy of queer camp films featuring fantasies of homoerotic bread-making, butch bentos, and femme fish filleting inspired by three Japanese immigrants who survived the isolation, humiliation, and heteronormativity of life in the American wartime camps.

JOSEPHINE TAYLOR (2017)

Taylor's recent large-scale drawings explore the physical and psychological landscape of contemporary adolescence and its narrow hierarchy of needs; sex, romance, friendship, music, drugs, and beauty. With hundreds of hand-made stencils, permanent ink, and an industrial-grade spray gun, she creates luminous narrative images without the presence of marks. Taylor's work was featured in the San Francisco MOMA's *SECA Award Exhibition*, *Bay Area Now* at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA, the *California Biennial* at the Orange County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA, and the *Nordic Watercolor Museum* in Sweden. Residencies and fellowships include the Headlands Center for the Arts, Sausalito, CA, and the Diebenkorn Fellowship at the San Francisco Art Institute. Her work is in the permanent collections of the San Francisco MOMA, the M.H. deYoung Museum, San Francisco, CA, 21c Museum, Cincinnati, OH, and the New York MOMA. She has shown

with Catharine Clark Gallery in San Francisco since 2003. Taylor earned a MFA at the San Francisco Art Institute, and has been a Visiting Lecturer at the University of California at Berkeley, Stanford University, the San Francisco Art Institute, and the California College of the Arts, San Francisco, CA. She currently teaches at Stanford University, and at the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy through the San Francisco Arts Education Project.

RICHARD WALKER (2017)

Walker's videos, photographic works, sculptural installations, and performances take solitude, human nature, and dialogue as their subjects. Focusing on the experience of our surrounding environments, his works highlight clashes between innate desire, cultural interpretation, and the reality of lived experience. Solo exhibitions include Fraenkellab, San Francisco, CA, Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Japan, the di Rosa Preserve, Napa, CA, The Contemporary Austin, TX, Arizona State University Museum, Tempe, AZ, James Cohan Gallery, New York, NY, Carroll/Fletcher, London, England, Angels, Barcelona, Spain, Spike Island, Bristol, England, Christopher Grimes Gallery, Santa Monica, CA, and Franklin Art Works, Minneapolis, MN. His works have been shown in exhibitions at CAPITAL, San Francisco, CA, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA, Times Museum, Guangzhou, China, Museum of Modern Art, Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, Kulturhuset, Stockholm, Sweden, Witte De With Rotterdam, The Netherlands, and K21 in Dusseldorf, Germany. He received an Artadia award, a fellowship from Kala Art Institute, Berkeley, CA, and was an Irvine fellow at the Montalvo Arts Center, Saratoga, CA. He has had residencies at the Headlands Center for the Arts, Sausalito, CA, and Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Madison, ME. He received a MFA from Goldsmiths College, London, England.

PANEL BIOS

Bill Arning is the Executive Director of the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston. Prior to CAMH, Arning was the Curator of the List Visual Art Center of MIT for nine years. He was the Director and Chief Curator of White Columns Alternative Art Space in New York from 1985 to 1996, and has a long history of freelance writing and projects as an independent curator.

Kris Kuramitsu is the Deputy Director and Senior Curator of The Mistake Room in Los Angeles. Formerly an independent curator, Kuramitsu has previously served as Associate Director of Artis, Programs Director at Creative Link for the Arts, Curator of the Collections of Eileen and Peter Norton and Eileen Harris Norton, and Arts Program Director for the Peter Norton Family Foundation. Kuramitsu holds an MA in Art History from UCLA.

Rebecca Schoenthal is the Curator of Exhibitions of the Fralin Museum of Art at the University of Virginia. She was previously the Executive Director and Chief Curator at Second Street Gallery in Charlottesville for five years. She received her doctorate in Art History from UVA and has taught art history there in the McIntire Department of Art.