



NEXUS AWARD 2011 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Atlanta – Dec. 8, 2010 - The Atlanta Contemporary Art Center (ACAC) is pleased to announce a public call for nominations for the 2011 Nexus Award. This award is given in recognition of demonstrated excellence and achievement by individuals who have made a profound contribution to contemporary visual art in Atlanta and beyond.

The award was launched in 2010 and in its first incarnation, ACAC recognized two outstanding individuals, Dr. Andrea Barnwell Brownlee - director of the Spelman College Museum of Fine Art, and Dr. Jerry Cullum - editor at large of "Art Papers." They were honored at a festive ceremony on April 21, 2010.

For the 2011 Nexus Award, ACAC is opening up the nomination process to the general public. "In order to consider the widest range of potential recipients, we are seeking the public's suggestions of worthy individuals who exemplify the Nexus Award criteria," said Saskia Benjamin, director of institutional advancement. "All nominations will be considered by the ACAC Board of Directors and staff before making the final choice of award recipient(s)."

Award Criteria

The honoree(s) will embody many of the following criteria:

- Raises awareness and sets standards of excellence for Atlanta artists, galleries, institutions or collections;
- Helps establish or further dialogue about contemporary Atlanta art and visual culture;
- Encourages collaboration among and across disciplines artistic or otherwise;
- Plays an advocacy role or serves as a cultural ambassador for the arts in Atlanta or beyond;
- Provides leadership or support to the visual arts, or establishes networks of support for the visual arts in Atlanta or beyond;
- Advances scholarship, professional criticism, artistic practice or understanding about contemporary visual art and culture;
- Demonstrates a history of commitment and excellence to the visual arts in Atlanta.

Nomination Information

Nominations are due to the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center by 11:59 p.m. on Fri. Dec. 31, 2010.

- Nominees may be artists, curators, collectors, critics, gallery owners, educators, patrons, administrators, elected officials and anyone else who embodies the above award criteria.
- You may nominate more than one individual. Please use separate nomination forms.
- Nominees cannot be an organization, institution, business, or funding entity.
- Nominees do not have to currently reside in Atlanta, but they must have demonstrated a substantial contribution to the visual arts of Atlanta.
- Nominees must be living.
- You cannot nominate yourself.
- Previous winners are not eligible.

To download the award criteria and nomination form, go to www.thecontemporary.org/nexusaward.

Please fill out and submit the Nexus Award nomination form(s) by the December 31 deadline. The nomination form(s) may be faxed to 404.577.5856, mailed to Atlanta Contemporary Art Center 535 Means Street NW, Atlanta, GA 30318, ATTN: Saskia Benjamin, or emailed to sbenjamin@thecontemporary.org.

Selection Process

All nominations will be compiled and reviewed by ACAC staff for completeness and adherence to award criteria. The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors will make the final recipient(s) selection on January 16, 2011. The announcement of the winner(s) will be made in late winter.

About the Nexus Award

Recognizing a need to celebrate leaders in the visual arts in Atlanta, the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center created the Nexus Award in 2010 to publically acknowledge an individual or individuals who have made a profound contribution to contemporary visual art in Atlanta and beyond.

In discussing the impetus for the award, Artistic Director for the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, Stuart Horodner stated, “The Nexus Award both recognizes the consequential individuals who empower art and culture in Atlanta and inspires others to follow in their footsteps. We believe that art enriches our lives and our city. It must be actively supported, and its leaders publically acknowledged. The awards ceremony is an opportunity to unite the arts, business, political, funding and educational communities around models of excellence in the visual arts.”

The Nexus Award name acknowledges the history of the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, which began as Nexus in 1973 and has grown to be a recognized leader in the exhibition and understanding of contemporary art and visual culture.

About the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center

Founded in 1973 as a grassroots artist cooperative, the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center is now a non-profit, non-collecting institution dedicated to the creation, presentation, and advancement of contemporary art by emerging and established artists. ACAC creates a diverse cultural landscape for artists, arts professionals and the art-interested public through its exhibitions, educational programming, and studio artist program. For more information about ACAC visit www.thecontemporary.org.

For more information about the Nexus Award, contact: Saskia Benjamin, director of institutional advancement, 404-688-1970 x211 or sbenjamin@thecontemporary.org or visit www.thecontemporary.org/nexusaward.

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