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**ATLANTA CONTEMPORARY ART CENTER
ANNOUNCES THE RECIPIENT OF THE 2011 NEXUS AWARD**

Atlanta – February 3, 2011 - The Atlanta Contemporary Art Center (ACAC) is pleased to announce that Louis Corrigan is the recipient of the second annual Nexus Award. Corrigan is the founder of Flux Projects and Possible Futures, two Atlanta arts organizations.

“The decision to honor Corrigan in 2011 was unanimous,” said Stuart Horodner, artistic director of ACAC. “He epitomizes the Nexus Award criteria in his dedication to raising the bar in Atlanta’s creative community. This year in particular, through Flux Projects, Possible Futures and his service on numerous boards, Corrigan has become a significant patron and promoter. He has made ambitious art projects possible and helped to facilitate artists and students becoming members at local arts institutions (ACAC was one of the beneficiaries of this grant). He is a tireless fixture on the Atlanta scene, organizing meet-and-greet gatherings and attending numerous openings, lectures and events at traditional venues and alternative locations.”

Of his recognition, Corrigan stated, “I’m extremely honored to receive the Nexus Award, especially with so many worthy candidates in Atlanta’s arts community. I see what I’ve been doing as an expression of tremendous confidence in that community. So I feel like it’s the community itself that’s being celebrated with this award.”

Nexus Award Celebration

Corrigan will receive the Nexus Award at a celebration at ACAC on Wednesday, May 4, 2011. Reception starts at 7 p.m., program at 8 p.m. For more information visit www.thecontemporary.org/nexusaward.

Recipient Bio

Louis Corrigan is an Atlanta native, born in 1965. He received his BA in English and creative writing from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1987. He did graduate studies in American literature in the PhD program at Emory University, where he also served as an instructor. From 1996 to 1999, he was a senior writer for the Motley Fool financial website. Since then, he has worked for San Francisco-based investment firms.

In 2009, Corrigan founded Flux Projects, a non-profit organization that supports artists in creating innovative temporary public art throughout Atlanta year-round. In 2010, he launched Possible Futures, a non-profit foundation that nurtures Atlanta’s creative culture and educates the public through the support and presentation of artists, writers and performers. He also serves on the boards of Art Papers, Atlanta Celebrates Photography, Artadia and ArtsCriticATL.

About the Nexus Award

Recognizing that a need existed to celebrate leaders in the visual arts in Atlanta, ACAC created the Nexus Award in 2010 to publicly acknowledge an individual or individuals who have made a profound contribution to contemporary visual art in Atlanta and beyond. The Nexus Award name acknowledges the history of ACAC, 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.

In discussing the impetus for the award, 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 publicly thanked for their efforts.”

In its inaugural year, the Nexus Award 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.” Barnwell Brownlee represents a strong curatorial and educational vision, and Cullum a consistent critical voice shedding light on the Atlanta art scene in local and national publications.

“Atlanta’s art community is on the cusp of something that is magical, transformative and beyond our wildest collective imagination,” stated Dr. Barnwell Brownlee. “I continue to be both honored and humbled that the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center – which plays an integral role in this forward momentum – selected me as a model of arts leadership.”

Nexus Award Nomination and Selection Process

In December 2010, ACAC put out a public call for nominations. The names of many worthy individuals were put forward representing a cross section of the contemporary visual arts community including artists, patrons, educators, curators and gallery owners. The nominees were narrowed down to the top three, which were voted on by the executive committee of the Board of Directors. Louis Corrigan was the unanimous choice of the committee.

The Nexus Award criteria recognize individuals who:

- Raise awareness and set standards of excellence for Atlanta artists, galleries, institutions or collections;
- Help establish or further dialogue about contemporary Atlanta art and visual culture;
- Encourage collaboration among and across disciplines artistic or otherwise;
- Play an advocacy role or serves as a cultural ambassador for the arts in Atlanta or beyond;
- Provide leadership or support to the visual arts in Atlanta or beyond;
- Advance scholarship, professional criticism, artistic practice or understanding about contemporary visual art and culture;
- Demonstrate a history of commitment and excellence to the visual arts in Atlanta.

About the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center

Founded in 1973 as a grassroots artist cooperative, ACAC 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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