

MEDIA ALERT:
March 17, 2015



THE CARL & MARILYNN THOMA ART FOUNDATION TO ANNOUNCE RECIPIENTS
OF INAUGURAL AWARDS FOR ARTS WRITERS IN THE DIGITAL ARTS

WHAT: The Carl & Marilyn Thoma Art Foundation will announce the winners of its inaugural Arts Writing Fellowship Awards recognizing arts writers exploring the digital arts. The program will award \$30,000 to an established arts writer in the U.S. who has made significant contributions to writing in the digital arts. In addition, a \$15,000 award will be made to an emerging arts writer in the U.S. who demonstrates great potential in writing about digital arts. Seeking the top writers in the field, the Foundation sought nominations from 15 prominent curators, writers and educators across the country. A selection committee comprised of three distinguished panelists will select the two awardees from a pool of 21 nominations.

WHO: The Carl & Marilyn Thoma Foundation was established in 1986 to fulfill their broad passion for philanthropy. In 2014, the Thomases went on to found the Carl & Marilyn Thoma Art Foundation to distinguish their initiatives and grants in the field of visual art.

The Carl & Marilyn Thoma Art Foundation recognizes the power of the arts to challenge and shift perceptions, spark creativity and connect people across cultures. The Foundation lends and exhibits artworks from the collection and supports innovative individuals and pivotal initiatives in the arts. The Foundation's collection includes over 500 works of art in three broad fields: Modern & Contemporary (including a digital arts collection), Spanish Colonial and Japanese Bamboo.

WHERE: The Foundation is located in Santa Fe, NM, and Chicago, IL. Nominees for the Arts Writing Fellowship Awards are from states across the U.S., including California, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, Oregon and Washington. There is no public award ceremony scheduled for this announcement.

WHY: The Arts Writing Fellowship Awards are the first of their kind to target the importance of innovative arts writing that directly impacts scholarship, history, criticism and theory of the digital arts and evolving technologies within contemporary art. The fellowships are no-strings-attached, merit-based awards recognizing the achievements of writers who have contributed significantly to the field of writing in the digital arts through general audience criticism or academic scholarship in articles, books, blogs and alternative media. In addition to rewarding and promoting the writers for their individual accomplishments, the awards for writing in the digital arts serve to further broaden scholarship and awareness within this increasingly relevant area of study, highlighting its importance within art history, contemporary art and the broader cultural landscape.

WHEN: Awardees and the selection committee will be announced April 21, 2015 via press release, which will be available under embargo on April 16, 2015 at 10am EST. To receive the embargoed release in advance of distribution, please contact Lainya Renault, A&O

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