

**MEDIA ALERT:
MARCH 30, 2016**



**CARL & MARILYNN THOMA ART FOUNDATION TO ANNOUNCE RECIPIENTS OF
ARTS WRITING AWARDS IN DIGITAL ART,
TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2016**

WHAT: The Carl & Marilyn Thoma Art Foundation will announce on May 3, 2016, the winners of its Arts Writing Awards in Digital Art recognizing arts writers who have made sustained and innovative contributions to writing about the digital arts. The program awards \$40,000 (\$30,000 award plus the opportunity for a \$10,000 project grant) to an established arts writer in the U.S. who has made significant contribution to writing about digital art and \$20,000 (\$15,000 award plus the opportunity for a \$5,000 project grant) to an emerging arts writer in the U.S. who demonstrates great promise in writing about digital art. A selection committee comprised of three distinguished panelists will select the two awardees from a pool of 23 nominees.

WHO: The Carl & Marilyn Thoma Art Foundation, established in 2014 to support innovative individuals and pivotal initiatives in the visual arts.

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, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, Washington. There is no public award ceremony scheduled for this announcement.

WHY: The Arts Writing 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 awards are no-strings-attached, merit-based awards recognizing the achievements of writers who have contributed to new dialogues and the growth of 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.

The winners of the inaugural Arts Writing Awards in 2015 were Jon Ippolito and Joanne McNeil. Ippolito, who received the award for an established arts writer, is Professor of New Media and Director of the Digital Curation program at the University of Maine, and from 1991-2006, was Associate Curator of Media Arts at the Guggenheim Museum. McNeil, who received the award for an emerging arts writer, is a New York based writer who was both a resident at Eyebeam in 2014 and a 2012 USC Annenberg/Getty Arts Journalism fellow.

WHEN: Awardees and the selection committee will be announced May 3, 2016 via press release, which will be available under embargo on April 19, 2015 at 10am EST. To receive the embargoed press release in advance of distribution, please contact Julia Miglets, julia@thomafoundation.org.

Media Contact

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About the Thoma Foundation

The Carl & Marilyn Thoma Art Foundation recognizes the power of the arts to challenge and shift perceptions, spark creativity and connect people across cultures. We lend and exhibit artworks from our collection and support innovative individuals and pivotal initiatives in the arts. Our public exhibition space in Santa Fe, Art House, features annual exhibitions of digital and electronic artworks and hosts regular tours for students.

For more information about the Thoma Foundation, please visit thomafoundation.org.

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