



FIRST NEXUS AWARD ANNOUNCED

Contemporary Art Champions Honored for their Contributions to Atlanta Arts

Atlanta – Jan. 26, 2010 - The Atlanta Contemporary Art Center announces the commemoration of its first Nexus Award, in recognition of demonstrated excellence and achievement by individuals who have made a profound contribution to the visual arts in Atlanta and beyond.

In October 2009, nominations were generated by the Board of Directors of the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center and colleagues in the field. The 20 nominees included local curators, critics, artists, funders and gallerists, all leaders in the visual arts arena. They were narrowed down to the top five which were vetted against a set of rigorous award criteria by the executive committee of the Board of Directors in January of this year. It was decided that the Nexus Award would go to two winners, one representing a strong curatorial and educational vision, and the other a consistent critical voice shedding light on the Atlanta arts community.

The competitive selection process included the following award criteria:

- Set standards of excellence for Atlanta artists, galleries, institutions or collections;
- Help establish or further dialogue about Atlanta art and visual culture;
- Play a public advocacy and leadership role for the arts, either as an individual or on behalf of an individual or organization;
- Advance scholarship, professional criticism, artistic practice or understanding about contemporary art; and
- Serve as an ambassador within and beyond the Atlanta art scene

The recipients of the 2010 Nexus Award are Dr. Andrea Barnwell Brownlee - director of the Spelman College Museum of Fine Art, and Dr. Jerry Cullum - editor at large of Art Papers.

Andrea Barnwell Brownlee is an art historian, curator, writer, critic and the director of the Spelman College Museum of Fine Art. She is the recipient of numerous academic, professional and scholarly awards including a MacArthur Curatorial Fellowship in the Department of Modern and Contemporary Art at The Art Institute of Chicago (1998 – 2000), a Future Women Leadership Award from ArtTable (2005) and the President's Award from the Women's Caucus for Art (2005). She currently serves on the boards of several arts organizations including the Metropolitan Atlanta Arts Fund.

Jerry Cullum is a writer, critic, artist and curator. He has served as the editor at large of Art Papers since 2008, and has been with the magazine since 1984 as Associate Editor (1984-1996) and Senior Editor (1996-2008). He also served as an art critic for the Atlanta Journal Constitution for 20 years and has been Atlanta Correspondent of ARTnews since 2002 as well as writing for other publications. Cullum is also active in the blogosphere, writing for his own blogs as well as other art blogs and websites. His poems, collected in four books and recorded on CD and DVD, have appeared in Poetry (Chicago), Midwest Quarterly and other magazines.

In discussing the impetus for the award, Artistic Director for the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, Stuart Horodner states, “This is the right time in the evolution of the Atlanta arts scene for major contributors to be celebrated for their efforts. The Atlanta Contemporary Art Center plays a dynamic role in uniting cultural, business, political and educational communities around the idea that art enriches our lives and our city, and must be actively supported. The Nexus Award can be an integral component of this connection.”

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. 2010 Nexus Award recipients will be honored on Wednesday, April 21, 2010 at a ticketed event, benefitting the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center.

About the Atlanta Contemporary Arts Center

The Atlanta Contemporary Art Center is a non-profit, multi-disciplinary arts organization dedicated to excellence, experimentation and education in all forms of contemporary art and culture. Visit www.thecontemporary.org to learn more.

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