



Portal: Governors Island Art Fair Returns in September 2021
With Presentations by 34 Artists

In New Format, 4heads Combines Fair with Multi-Month Residency Program

Portal to On View September 8 - 13, 2021 on Governors Island

New York, NY—August 11, 2021—*Portal: Governors Island*, the annual fair hosted by the artist-for-artist nonprofit 4heads, will return in September 2021 following its cancellation last year due to the pandemic. This year's edition, which will run from September 8 - 13, will include 34 artists in spaces across the historic homes on Colonels Row. In addition to their presentations at the week-long fair, each of the featured artists is participating in the 4heads Artists-in-Residence program on Governors Island. Divided into two sessions—with one session in progress since April and the second kicking off on August 19 and running through November 17—the residency program has served as a critical lifeline for artists seeking to secure studio space and opportunities to create new work following pandemic-related challenges. Several artists will be showing work at the fair that they have been developing during their residencies, while others will present projects that they plan to continue to evolve during their subsequent stay on the Island.

A press preview will be held on September 7, 2021, from 12:00 - 4:00 PM. Visits to artist studios on the Island can also be arranged in advance of and following the fair dates, with residencies running through mid-November.

Portal: Governors Island, previously known as the *Governors Island Art Fair*, has long been an anchor of cultural activity on the Island. The first edition of the fair took place in 2008, and for more than a decade 4heads has been enlivening the Island's historic space—from the houses on Colonels Row to Fort Jay to Castle Williams—with the work of contemporary artists. While many cultural organizations now present and are sited on Governors Island, 4heads was among the first to recognize its potential as an arts destination, spurring attendance to and interest in the Island with its presentations each year. In addition to its annual fair, 4heads has for many years operated a residency program on Colonels Row. Although 4heads was unable to host its fair last year, in accordance with health and safety guidelines, the organization worked with the Trust for Governors Island to enhance the length of time and number of artists it could support through its Artists-in-Residence program. For 2021, 4heads combined its expanded residency program with its fair format, bringing together the best of its offerings into a cohesive experience for the artists and visitors.

“The experiences I’ve been having with 4heads have been incredible—I participated in a prior iteration of the fair and am returning again this year for both the residency and fair presentation. I sincerely appreciate how much 4heads cares about its artists. They helped me start my career in the city, to build my community, and provided massive motivation for me to continue my art practice, especially during

COVID,” **said Sizhu Li.** “For 2021, I will be working on and showing a new kinetic installation driven by natural winds.”

For its 2021 Artists-in-Residence program and fair, 4heads leadership invited artists from across its vast network to submit applications for consideration. The 4heads network includes artists who have previously participated in 4heads’ fairs as well as in its residency and education programs. The 2021 artist cohort was selected from those who submitted applications with a particular eye toward artists’ expressed need for studio space and desire to develop or complete projects and works that had been put on hold due to the pandemic. The full list of 2021 participating artists includes:

Santina Amato	Nix Laemmle	Simona Prives
Sonya Blesofsky	Sizhu Li	Jiwon Rhie
Ellen Blum	Andy London	Margaret Roleke
Nora Breen	Kyle Luntz	Nola Romano
Miggy Buck	Ethan Minsker	Cynthia Ruse
Henry Chung	Shiri Mordechey	Jonathan Sims
Ethan Cornell	Motomichi Nakamura	Janice Sloane
Rose Deler	Matthias Neumann	Grant Stoops
Gregg Emery	Lauren Petty & Shaun	Sam Sundius
Tim Fite	Irons	Erin Turner
Pablo Garcia Lopez	Scott Pfaffman	Debra Zechowski
Tine Kindermann		

Additionally, 4heads has invited teaching artist and *Portal* 2021 participant Andy London to collaborate with a group of students on projects that will be presented in part at the September fair. London oversees the animation program at Hostos, CUNY in the South Bronx. He’s assembled a team of eight Hostos animation and design students to develop studio projects across 4heads’ two artist residency sessions. The engagement with students combines the three central components of 4heads’ work—residency offerings, educational programs, and fair presentations—and supports mentoring opportunities for a diverse group of young artists. The student artists participating in residency and who will show work at *Portal* include **Carlos Thompson, Jesus Galvez, Natasha Villegas, Lisbeth Estevez, Amanda Quintanilla, Alba Gonzalez, Jalen Barr, and Alan Pierre-Louis.**

“Since its inception, 4heads has focused on how we can best serve fellow artists. We established our residency program to fill the essential need for studio space to make new work and created our fair as a platform to share the voices and work of artists that captivated and inspired us. The pandemic has once again brought to the fore the challenges that many artists, especially those without formal representation, face and the precariousness of artistic production in general,” **said Nix Laemmle and Jack Robinson, two of 4heads’ co-founders.** “We are grateful to have had the opportunity to continue to support artists during this challenging period and to once again bring our beloved fair to Governors Island and to the audiences that have made it an essential part of the fall arts calendar. We look forward to seeing everyone on the Island in September.”

Comments and artwork highlights from several participating artists:

“During my residency with 4heads, I observed, absorbed and concentrated on the history of the space around me. The feeling of the room, the house, and the island itself dictated the installation in process. The beautiful and dilapidated historic residency houses are one of the aspects that makes a residency with 4heads so unique and special,” **said Simona Prives**. “In my space, I created an immersive sound and video installation. The piece is essentially a moving collage composed of multiple layers in motion. Hand-shot video is combined with drawings, ink textures and printmaking. Video mapping is used to coincide with the architectural elements in the space such as the light fixtures, fireplaces and closets. In my piece, human activity is literally embedded in the cracks in the walls. Cities are under construction, or crumbling, and all orders of consciousness are present, embedded in the physicality of the space. These elements all work together toward an open ended narrative about the space, of which the viewer, making associations, plays a role.

“Participating in residency programs in general has become a crucial part of my practice. I am inspired by new situations and contexts for my work and the residency with 4heads at Governors Island is ripe for that type of inspiration. My work sits comfortably within a domestic environment as it plays on the conflicts I have as a woman raised within a traditional immigrant family where gender roles were clearly set in place, high expectations of me becoming wife and mother imposed on me simply because of my gender, and the actual genuine enjoyment I get out of being a domestic goddess that primarily includes the skill of cooking,” **said Santina Amato**. “For my time as a 4heads artist resident, I am working on my largest sculptures to date, using domestic materials that you would see within the home such as flour, plaster, and joint compound to create works that seem to be consuming domestic furniture.”

“I have been working with projection mapping media for the past several years and it has been my goal to create an installation that can connect with the audience as much as possible,” **said Motomichi Nakamura**. “Through this residency, I will explore the possibility of creating an immersive space by using projectors and experimenting with different materials for projection surfaces, so that the visitors feel part of and inside the installation and become participants themselves.”

“My experiences with the 4heads Artist-in-Residence program has been very helpful for both my ability to create, as well as to communicate and exchange ideas with other artists. I feel grateful to be surrounded by such talented people,” **said Shiri Mordechay**. “The studio space offered by the residency has allowed me much needed freedom in creating new works. I have been able to create many large scale pieces during my time here, including a new body of work. I am additionally in the process of creating cut pieces in the form of masks and other garbs for the purpose of using them in performative works.

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About 4heads

4heads is a 501(c)3 nonprofit arts organization run by artists for artists. It was launched in New York in 2008, when Nicole Laemmle, Jack Robinson, and Antony Zito, who are working artists themselves, saw an opportunity to create a platform that would serve emerging artists and the local community through exhibitions, education programs, and artistic collaborations. The organization’s DIY spirit helps catalyze the ongoing dialogue between artists and people from all walks of life. Its diverse slate of initiatives includes art fairs, arts-education for underserved communities, and a summer Artists-in-Residence

program on Governors Island. 4heads is committed to shedding new light on hidden culture and bringing new life to unexpected and unique spaces across the city.

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