



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

San Francisco Art Institute Fort Mason **Public Opening Spectacle**

An inaugural party celebrating the public opening of SFAI's new Fort Mason campus with exhibitions, open studios, a student art sale, and more

November 10, 2017; 7–10pm

November 11, 2017; 12–5pm

Press Preview: Friday, November 10; 10–11:30am

San Francisco Art Institute (SFAI) introduces the public to its stunning second campus at Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture (FMCAC) in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area with a two-day celebratory Opening Spectacle November 10 & 11, 2017. The weekend will feature newly unveiled exhibitions and commissioned art works, open studios, a special edition of the annual Concentrate student art sale, and much more. The Friday night public party will feature music, one-night-only art installations, and live performances.

The 67,000-square foot renovated pier—formerly known as the Herbst Pavilion—with spectacular views over the San Francisco Bay is the new home for over 160 art studios for students, faculty, and visiting artists and 4,300 square feet of new public exhibition space, open to the public and free of charge, including a flagship gallery, a graduate student-run gallery, and Gray Box media and performance space.

Designed by Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects, the new site at the prow of the city represents the largest expansion by SFAI since the opening of its landmark Paffard Keatinge-Clay addition in Russian Hill in 1969. The new campus joins the historic Chestnut Street campus to radically advance SFAI's commitment to positioning artists at the center of public life in the Bay Area and globally.

“SFAI is an engine of civic culture built around a school,” says Gordon Knox, President, SFAI. “With the opening of our Fort Mason campus, SFAI is turbo-charging the core role that art plays in the nature of San Francisco and enriching the city’s living, breathing ecology of artists and art-making. We are excited to welcome the community into our new home to share in transformative art experiences and active engagement with the creative process.”

OPENING WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS:

- Unveiling of the inaugural exhibition *In Around Beyond* including public artist commissions by leading international artists (Fort Mason, both days)
- A special edition of SFAI's annual **CONCENTRATE: Student Art Sale + Open Studios** giving visitors the opportunity to see and purchase the work of over 100 student emerging artists and participate in a host of art-related activities (Fort Mason, both days)
- Performance by **Extra Action Marching Band** (Fort Mason, Friday)
- A pop-up featuring **Fort Point Beer Co. beer garden and Off the Grid food trucks** (Fort Mason, both days)

OPENING EXHIBITION AND PUBLIC ARTIST COMMISSIONS:

Inaugural Exhibition: *In Around Beyond*

On view: November 11, 2017 - January 6, 2018 at both campuses

Opening reception: Friday, November 10, 7-10pm at Fort Mason

For its inaugural exhibition at the Fort Mason campus, SFAI is commissioning SFAI alumni, faculty, and affiliated artists to share new works in, around, and beyond the new building. The exhibition and series of commissions advocates for the role that artists play within public life and highlights more than a dozen artists including Keith Boadwee, Gutzom Borglum, María Elena González, Bill Fontana, Mads Lynnerup, Alicia McCarthy, Postcommodity, Jon Rubin, Sans façon, and Mel Ziegler, among others who have contributed to the historically charged dynamic between artists, SFAI, and the public realm.

The exhibition will be on view in the new Fort Mason gallery with a companion exhibition at the historic Chestnut Street campus in its Walter and McBean Galleries.

The special commissions and installations that are a highlight of the inaugural year at the Fort Mason campus include:

- SFAI alumna and faculty member **Alicia McCarthy** (BFA 1994) has created a large-scale mural at the heart of the new building that is a work of interwoven color, energy, and gesture. McCarthy's work will be on view for two years, and is the first of a biennial series of commissions.
- *You are here*, an outdoor installation by international art collective **Sans façon**, will debut for the Opening Spectacle on November 10. The blimp-sized inflatable arrow will fly above the pier as a beacon for the new campus.
- A new project by former faculty member **Jon Rubin**, to be unveiled during the November 10 party, will reveal hidden histories of SFAI in the form of famous and infamous 'retired' student art pieces. Descriptions of these projects will be displayed on banners, which will hang from the ceiling rafters—much like the retired jerseys of famous basketball players.

- In January 2018, internationally-renowned sound artist **Bill Fontana** will re-present his 1981 work *Landscape Sculpture with Foghorns*. Originally installed on the eastern wall of Pier 2, the temporally-specific installation layers and overlaps with the contemporary soundscape of the San Francisco waterfront.

In Around Beyond is co-curated by Katie Hood Morgan, Curator of Exhibitions and Public Programs, SFAI; and Hesse McGraw, Principal, el dorado inc; in partnership with The Other Thing.

RELATED EVENTS:

- **Undergraduate Open House** for prospective students that includes tours at both campuses (RSVP required at <http://sfai.edu/events-calendar/detail/fall-open-house2>)
- **Graduate Open House** for prospective students at the new Fort Mason campus (RSVP required at <http://www.sfai.edu/events-calendar/detail/fall-graduate-open-house>)
- **Alumni Weekend 2017** featuring a public panel discussion on art and activism and public alumni exhibition in the Diego Rivera Gallery at the Chestnut Street campus, on view Saturday, November 11 (RSVP required at <http://www.sfai.edu/events-calendar/detail/alumni-weekend-2017>)

ADDITIONAL INAUGURAL YEAR EXHIBITIONS AND PROGRAMS:

Isaac Julien's *Playtime*

December 1, 2017 - February 11, 2018

Opening Reception + Isaac Julien and Sarah Thornton in Conversation: Thursday, November 30, 6-9pm

Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture (FMCAC), the Kramlich Collection, and SFAI team up to present *Playtime*, an ambitious exhibition of three recent video installations by award-winning British artist Isaac Julien exploring the wide-ranging effects of how information, labor, and capital circulate in our global, networked societies.

San Francisco Art Institute's newly constructed Gray Box at Fort Mason will be the venue for *Better Life (Ten Thousand Waves)* (2010), the cinematic cut of Julien's monumental installation *Ten Thousand Waves*, filmed on location in mainland China.

Julien's other works will occupy two galleries on the FMCAC campus and include the U.S. premiere of Julien's seven-screen installation, *Playtime* (2014), featuring a cast of international film stars including James Franco, Maggie Cheung, and Mercedes Cabral. *KAPITAL* (2013), a two-screen companion piece to *Playtime*, documents the public discussion, "Choreographing Capital," held at London's Hayward Gallery between the artist, social theorist David Harvey, and an audience of academic luminaries such as the late Stuart Hall, Irit Rogoff, and Paul Gilroy.

Visiting Artists and Scholars + Graduate Lecture Series

Osher Lecture Hall, Chestnut Street Campus

Tuesdays at 7pm

Upcoming guests:

- Lava Thomas: October 24
- Ingrid LaFleur: "In the Face of the Unchanging: Pleasure, Politics & Possibilities," October 31
- Michelle Handelman: "Hustlers & Empires," November 7
- Terry Powers, Richard Diebenkorn Teaching Fellow: "Method Acting," November 14
- Tonel: "Self-Portrait of the Artists as an Organic Intellectual," November 28

About San Francisco Art Institute

Founded in 1871, SFAI is one of the country's oldest and most prestigious institutions of higher education in the practice and study of contemporary art. As a diverse community of working artists and scholars, SFAI provides students with a rigorous education in the arts and preparation for a life in the arts through an immersive studio environment, an integrated liberal arts and art history curriculum, and critical engagement with the world. Committed to educating artists who will shape the future of art, culture, and society, SFAI fosters creativity and original thinking in an open, experimental, and interdisciplinary context.

General Information

The free Opening Spectacle takes place Friday, November 10, 2017 from 7-10pm and Saturday, November 11, 2017 from 12-5pm at the Fort Mason campus.

Admissions Open House and Alumni Day events take place Saturday, November 11 at both campuses; detailed schedule online.

San Francisco Art Institute – Fort Mason is located on Pier 2 within Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture, 2 Marina Blvd., San Francisco, CA. San Francisco Art Institute – Chestnut Street is located at 800 Chestnut St., San Francisco, CA.

For more information, the public may visit sfai.edu or call (415) 749-4563.

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