

# WHITNEY

## Press Release

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### **WHITNEY MUSEUM ANNOUNCES \$1 MILLION GRANT FROM THE KEITH HARING FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT EXHIBITIONS IN THE MUSEUM'S DOWNTOWN BUILDING, OPENING IN 2015**

**NEW YORK, October 26, 2012** – Adam D. Weinberg, the Alice Pratt Brown Director of the Whitney Museum of American Art, announced today that the Whitney has received a \$1 million endowment grant from the Keith Haring Foundation specifically intended to support exhibitions in the Museum's downtown building, opening in 2015. Designed by Renzo Piano, the building is currently under construction in the Meatpacking district. The building will enable the Whitney to increase the size and scope of its exhibitions and programming and to showcase, to a far greater extent than previously possible, the Museum's noted collection.

“This wonderfully generous grant from the Keith Haring Foundation, the first we have received from an artist's foundation to support exhibitions in our new building, helps to propel us forward as we prepare for our future,” said Mr. Weinberg. “Keith Haring was an extraordinary artist, exuberant, humane, passionate, and unflinching in his honesty. The Whitney has been a staunch supporter of Keith's work for thirty years and this grant is a testament to our enduring relationship with Keith, his work, and his legacy. The Foundation's support at this time is essential to strengthening the exhibition program planned for our new building, and we are profoundly grateful to the Foundation, its Board, and its executive director, Julia Gruen.”

The Whitney's history with Keith Haring began in 1983 when he was presented for the first time in a Whitney Biennial and in *The Comic Art Show* at the Museum's downtown branch. He

appeared again in the 1991 Whitney Biennial and in a 1992 Independent Study Program exhibition, *The Power of the City/The City of Power*. In 1997, the Whitney mounted *Keith Haring*, the artist's first full retrospective. He was included in *The American Century: Art and Culture 1950-2000* in 1999. In 2010, the museum added to its collection of Haring's work through a magnanimous gift to the Whitney from longtime supporter Emily Fisher Landau; the work was shown in *Legacy: The Emily Fisher Landau Collection* in 2011.

Julia Gruen, Executive Director of the Keith Haring Foundation, commented: "The Haring Foundation is immensely proud to partner with the Whitney Museum during this important period in the institution's history. The Whitney has been a longtime believer in Keith's work and a supporter of his legacy. We are honored to present this grant in support of the exhibition program that the Museum will carry on in its new building downtown."

In addition to this grant, the Haring Foundation has provided previous support for the Whitney's Youth Insights program, the Museum's award-winning teen internship that offers two free, semester-long after-school programs each spring and fall for tenth through twelfth grade New York City high school students.

### **About the Foundation**

Keith Haring (1958-1990) generously contributed his talents and resources to numerous causes. He conducted art workshops with children, created logos and posters for public service agencies, and produced murals, sculptures, and paintings to benefit health centers and disadvantaged communities. In 1989, Keith established a foundation to ensure that his philanthropic legacy would continue indefinitely.

The Keith Haring Foundation makes grants to not-for-profit groups that engage in charitable and educational activities. In accordance with Keith's wishes, the Foundation concentrates its giving in two areas: The support of organizations which provide educational opportunities to underprivileged children and the support of organizations which engage in education, prevention and care with respect to AIDS and HIV infection.

Keith Haring additionally charged the Foundation with maintaining and protecting his artistic legacy after his death. The Foundation maintains a collection of art along with archives that facilitate historical research about the artist and the times and places in which he lived and worked. The Foundation supports arts and educational institutions by funding exhibitions, educational programs, acquisitions and publications that serve to contextualize and illuminate the artist's work and philosophy.

### **About the Whitney**

The Whitney Museum of American Art is the world's leading museum of twentieth-century and contemporary art of the United States. With a history of exhibiting the most promising and influential artists and provoking intense debate, the Whitney Biennial, the Museum's signature exhibition, has become the most important survey of the state of contemporary art in the United States. In addition to its landmark exhibitions, the Museum is known internationally for events and educational programs of exceptional significance and as a center for research, scholarship, and conservation.

### **Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art**

<b>Yayoi Kusama's <i>Fireflies on the Water</i></b>	Through October 28, 2012
<b>Signs &amp; Symbols</b>	Through October 28, 2012
<b>Oskar Fischinger</b>	Through October 28, 2012
<b>...as apple pie</b>	Through early 2013
<b>Wade Guyton OS</b>	Through January 13, 2013
<b>Richard Artschwager!</b>	October 25, 2012-February 3, 2013
<b>Trisha Baga: Plymouth Rock 2</b>	November 7, 2012-January 13, 2013
<b>Sinister Pop</b>	Opens November 15, 2012
<b>Dark and Deadpan: Pop in TV and the Movies</b>	Opens November 15, 2012
<b>Blues for Smoke</b>	February 7-April 28, 2013
<b>Jay DeFeo: A Retrospective</b>	February 28-June 2, 2013

*The Whitney Museum is located at 945 Madison Avenue at 75th Street, New York City. Museum hours are: Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., closed Monday and Tuesday. General admission: \$18. Full-time students and visitors ages 19–25 and 62 & over: \$14. Visitors 18 & under and Whitney members: FREE. Admission is pay-what-you-wish on Fridays, 6–9 p.m. For general information, please call (212) 570-3600 or visit [whitney.org](http://whitney.org).*