63 Artists Named for Whitney's 80th Biennial Titled 'Quiet as It's Kept'

January 25, 2022

The Whitney Museum of American Art has announced that sixty-three artists and collectives will be participating in Whitney Biennial 2022: Quiet as It's Kept, co-organized by two Whitney curators, David Breslin and Adrienne Edwards. This will be the eightieth iteration in the long-running series of annual and biennial exhibitions launched by the Museum's founder, Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, in 1932. The 2022 Whitney Biennial takes over most of the Whitney from April 6 through September 5, with portions of the exhibition and some programs continuing through October 23, 2022.

Breslin and Edwards remarked: “The Whitney Biennial is an ongoing experiment, the result of a shared commitment to artists and the work they do. We began planning for this exhibition, originally slated to open in 2021, almost a year before the 2020 election, before the pandemic and shutdown with their reeling e ects, before the uprisings demanding racial justice and before the questioning of institutions and their structures. While many of these underlying conditions are not new, their overlapping, intensity, and sheer ubiquity created a context in which past, present, and future folded into one another. We've organized the exhibition to re ect these precarious and improvised times. The Biennial primarily serves as a forum for artists, and the works that will be presented re ect their enigmas, the things that perplex them, the important questions they are asking.”

The 2022 Biennial features dynamic contributions that take different forms over the course of the presentation: artworks—even walls—change, and performance animates the galleries and objects. With a roster of artists at all points in their careers, the Biennial surveys the art of these times through an intergenerational group, many with an interdisciplinary perspective, and the curators have chosen not to have a separate performance or video and Im program. Rather, these forms are integrated into the exhibition with an equal and consistent presence in the galleries.

The majority of the exhibition takes place on the Museum’s fifth and sixth floors, which are counterpoints and act as pendants to one another: one floor is a dark labyrinth, a space of containment; and the other is a clearing, open and light-filled. The former also contains an antechamber, a space of reserve. The dynamics of borders and what constitutes “American” are explored by artists from Mexico, specifically Ciudad Juárez and Tijuana, and First Nations artists in Canada, as well as by artists born outside of North America.

“Deliberately intergenerational and interdisciplinary, the Biennial proposes that cultural, aesthetic, and political possibility begins with meaningful exchange and reciprocity,” Breslin and Edwards noted. “Rather than proposing a uni ed theme, we pursue a series of hunches throughout the exhibition: that abstraction demonstrates a tremendous capacity to create, share, and, sometimes withhold, meaning; that research-driven conceptual art can combine the lushness of ideas and materiality; that personal narratives sifted through political, literary, and pop cultures can address larger social frameworks; that artworks can complicate what ‘American’ means by addressing the country’s physical and psychological boundaries; and that our ‘now’ can be reimagined by engaging with under-recognized artistic models and artists we’ve lost.”

Adam D. Weinberg, the Museum’s Alice Pratt Brown Director, commented: “Curators David Breslin and Adrienne Edwards have been visiting artists over the past two years in search of the most important and relevant work. The 2022 Biennial arrives at a time haunted by a global pandemic and plagued by ongoing racial and economic inequities and polarizing politics. The artists in the exhibition challenge us to consider how these realities affect our senses of self and community and offer one of the broadest and most diverse takes on art in the United States that the Whitney has offered in many years.”
Scott Rothkopf, Senior Deputy Director and Nancy and Steve Crown Family Chief Curator, noted, “Throughout this challenging time, it's been an inspiration and pleasure to watch David and Adrienne curate their edition of the Whitney's enduring, signature exhibition. Their intellectual chemistry was as evident as the rigor and care they brought to their collaborations with artists. The 2022 Biennial deftly manages to reflect both the spirit of a moment and a deep historical awareness—of art, our society, and the Biennial itself.”

The title of the 2022 Whitney Biennial, Quiet as It's Kept, is a colloquialism. Breslin and Edwards were inspired by the ways novelist Toni Morrison, jazz drummer Max Roach, and artist David Hammons have invoked it in their works. The phrase is typically said prior to something—sometimes obvious—that should be kept secret.

Breslin and Edwards also chose to adorn Whitney Biennial 2022: Quiet as It’s Kept with a symbol: ) (. This inverted set of parentheses is taken from a poem written by N. H. Pritchard in May 1968. The poem’s manuscript is included in the exhibition and is reproduced in full in the exhibition’s catalogue. A highly experimental poet whose visually dynamic, text-based works strongly resemble concrete poetry, Pritchard traversed many different circles in downtown New York, from membership in Umbra—a collective of Black poets that was radical both aesthetically and politically—to the international poetry avant-garde, to the bohemian Greenwich Village of Philip Guston and Allen Ginsberg. “The symbol resonated with us in its gesturing toward openness, beyond what is contained, even toward the uncontainable. We also value its suggestion of interlude or interval,” Breslin

The 2022 artists:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Born</th>
<th>Lives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Alvarado</td>
<td>1982 in San Antonio, TX</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
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<td>Harold Ancart</td>
<td>1980 in Brussels, Belgium</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
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<td>Mónica Arreola</td>
<td>1976 in Tijuana, Mexico</td>
<td>Tijuana, Mexico</td>
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<td>Emily Barker</td>
<td>1992 in San Diego, CA</td>
<td>Los Angeles, CA</td>
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<td>Yto Barrada</td>
<td>1971 in Paris, France</td>
<td>Brooklyn, NY, and Tangier, Morocco</td>
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<td>Rebecca Belmore</td>
<td>1960 in Upsala, Canada</td>
<td>Vancouver, Canada</td>
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<td>Nayland Blake</td>
<td>1960 in New York, NY</td>
<td>Brooklyn and Queens, NY</td>
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<td>Cassandra Press</td>
<td>Founded 2016 by Kandis Williams</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theresa Hak Kyung Cha</td>
<td>1951 in Busan, South Korea</td>
<td>Died 1982 in New York, NY</td>
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<td>Raven Chacon</td>
<td>1977 in Fort Defiance, Navajo Nation</td>
<td>Albuquerque, NM</td>
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<td>Leidy Churchman</td>
<td>1979 in Villanova, PA</td>
<td>New York, NY, and West Tremont, ME</td>
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<td>Tony Cokes</td>
<td>1956 in Richmond, VA</td>
<td>Providence, RI</td>
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<td>Jacky Connolly</td>
<td>1990 in New York, NY</td>
<td>Brooklyn, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matt Connors</td>
<td>1973 in Chicago, IL</td>
<td>New York, NY, and Los Angeles, CA</td>
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<td>Alex Da Corte</td>
<td>1980 in Camden, NJ</td>
<td>Philadelphia, PA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aria Dean</td>
<td>1993 in Los Angeles, CA</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Danielle Dean</td>
<td>1982 in Huntsville, AL</td>
<td>Los Angeles and San Diego, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jane Dickson</td>
<td>1952 in Chicago, IL</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
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<td>Buck Ellison</td>
<td>1987 in San Francisco, CA</td>
<td>Los Angeles, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alia Farid</td>
<td>1985 in Kuwait City, Kuwait</td>
<td>San Juan, PR, and Kuwait City, Kuwait</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coco Fusco</td>
<td>1960 in New York, NY</td>
<td>Brooklyn, NY</td>
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</table>
Adam Gordon  
Born 1986 in Minneapolis, MN  
Lives in Jersey City, NJ

Renée Green  
Born 1959 in Cleveland, OH  
Lives in Somerville, MA, and New York, NY

Pao Houa Her  
Born 1982 in Laos  
Lives in Blaine, MN

EJ Hill  
Born 1985 in Los Angeles, CA  
Lives in Los Angeles, CA

Alfredo Jaar  
Born 1956 in Santiago, Chile  
Lives in New York, NY

Rindon Johnson  
Born 1990 in San Francisco, CA  
Lives in Berlin, Germany

Ivy Kwan Arce and Julie Tolentino  
Ivy Kwan Arce: Born 1965 in Salinas, CA  
Lives in New York, NY  
Julie Tolentino: Born 1964 in San Francisco, CA  
Lives in Joshua Tree, CA

Ralph Lemon  
Born 1952 in Cincinnati, OH  
Lives in Brooklyn, NY

Duane Linklater  
Born 1976 in Treaty 9 Territory (Northern Ontario, Canada)  
Lives in North Bay, Canada (Robinson Huron Treaty Territory)  
Omaskêko Ininiwak

James Little  
Born 1952 in Memphis, TN  
Lives in New York, NY

Rick Lowe  
Born 1961 in rural Alabama  
Lives in Houston, TX

Daniel Joseph Martinez  
Born 1957 in Los Angeles, CA  
Lives in Los Angeles, CA, and Paris, France

Dave McKenzie  
Born 1977 in Kingston, Jamaica  
Lives in Brooklyn, NY

Rodney McMillian  
Born 1969 in Columbia, SC  
Lives in Los Angeles, CA

Na Mira  
Born 1982 in Lawrence, KS, on Kickapoo, Osage, Kansa, and Sioux lands  
Lives in Los Angeles, CA, on Tongva, Gabrielino, Kizh, and Chumash lands

Alejandro “Luperdórales”  
Born 1990 in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico  
Lives in Monterrey, Mexico

MovedbytheMotion  
Founded 2016 by Wu Tsang and Tosh Basco

Terence Nance  
Born 1982 in Dallas, TX  
Lives in America

Woody De Othello  
Born 1991 in Miami, FL  
Lives in Oakland, CA

Adam Pendleton  
Born 1984 in Richmond, VA  
Lives in New York, NY

N. H. Pritchard  
Born 1939 in New York, NY  
Died 1996 in eastern Pennsylvania

Lucy Raven  
Born 1977 in Tucson, AZ  
Lives in New York, NY

Charles Ray  
Born 1959 in Chicago, IL  
Lives in Los Angeles, CA

Jason Rhoades  
Born 1965 in New Castle, CA  
Died 2006 in Los Angeles, CA

Andrew Roberts  
Born 1995 in Tijuana, Mexico  
Lives in Mexico City and Tijuana, Mexico

Guadalupe Rosales  
Born 1980 in Redwood City, CA  
Lives in Los Angeles, CA

Veronica Ryan  
Born 1956 in Plymouth, Montserrat  
Lives in London, United Kingdom, and New York, NY

Rose Salane  
Born 1992 in New York, NY  
Lives in Queens, NY

Michael E. Smith  
Born 1977 in Detroit, MI  
Lives in Providence, RI