

PUBLIC ART FUND AT THE NEW SCHOOL

JEFF KOONS



SEPTEMBER 10, 2014
6:30 PM

Vera List Center for Art and Politics
The New School, Tishman Auditorium
63 Fifth Avenue
New York City

ABOUT

Public Art Fund

Public Art Fund brings dynamic contemporary art to a broad audience in New York City by mounting ambitious free exhibitions of international scope and impact that offer the public powerful experiences with art and the urban environment.

This program is supported by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. Public Art Fund is a non-profit art organization supported by generous contributions from individuals, foundations, and corporations, and with funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency; and the National Endowment for the Arts. PublicArtFund.org

Vera List Center for Art and Politics

The Vera List Center for Art and Politics is an idea incubator and a public forum for art, culture, and politics. It was established at The New School in 1992—a time of rousing debates about freedom of speech, identity politics, and society’s investment in the arts. A pioneer in the field, the center serves a critical mission: to foster a vibrant and diverse community of artists, scholars, and policy makers who take creative, intellectual, and political risks to bring about positive change.

We champion the arts as expressions of the political moments from which they emerge, and consider the intersection between art and politics the space where new forms of civic engagement must be developed. We are the only university-based institution committed exclusively to leading public research on this intersection. Through public programs and classes, prizes and fellowships, publications and exhibitions that probe some of the pressing issues of our time, we curate and support new roles for the arts and artists in advancing social justice. www.veralistcenter.org

The Public Art Fund Talks at The New School *are organized by the Public Art Fund in collaboration with the Vera List Center for Art and Politics.*

For related courses at The New School, please visit www.newschool.edu.

PROGRAM NOTES

Jeff Koons is internationally recognized as one of the most significant and influential artists working today. For the past 35 years he has examined the relationship between art and popular culture, reimagining commonplace subjects such as inflatable toys, commercial imagery, and celebrity kitsch with an ingenious sense of scale, material, and craft. Perhaps best known for his public sculptures, Koons has engaged audiences around the globe with his audacious and jubilant outdoor installations. From his legendary *Puppy* of 1992, which was presented by Public Art Fund in 2000, to his iconic stainless steel sculptures, and new topiary work *Split-Rocker*, now on view at Rockefeller Center, his monumental works have transformed the landscape of public art for artists and audiences alike. On the occasion of the presentation of *Split-Rocker* at Rockefeller Center, and his major retrospective exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art, Jeff Koons will present a rare artist talk focused on these recent exhibitions and his work in public space.

Since his first solo exhibition in 1980, Koons’s work has been shown in major galleries and institutions throughout the world. His *Celebration* sculptures were the subject of exhibitions on the rooftop of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and at the Neue Nationalgalerie in Berlin. Château de Versailles opened its doors to a living artist for the first time with *Jeff Koons: Versailles*, where a selection of his work was presented within the Grand Apartments. The Whitney Museum of American Art is presenting the most comprehensive survey of Koons’s career to date, *Jeff Koons: A Retrospective* (through October 19, 2014), which will also travel to the Pompidou Centre Paris in November, and to the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao in June 2015.

Jeff Koons (b. York, Pennsylvania, 1955) has received numerous awards and honors in recognition of his cultural achievements. Notably, Koons received the Governor’s Awards for the Arts “Distinguished Arts Award” from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts; President Jacques Chirac promoted Koons to Officier de la Legion d’Honneur; and most recently, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton honored Koons with the State Department’s Medal of the Arts for his outstanding commitment to the Art in Embassies Program and international cultural exchange. Koons has been a board member of The International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children (ICMEC) since 2002, and co-founded the Koons Family International Law and Policy Institute with ICMEC for the purpose of combating global issues of child abduction and exploitation and to protect the world’s children.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Vera List Center for Art and Politics

SEMINAR

The Legacy of the Cultural Boycott in South Africa
Thursday, September 18, 5:15–9:00 p.m.

Seminar I of the series *Assuming Boycott: Resistance, Agency, and Cultural Production*, with Sean Jacobs, Daniel Magaziner, and Hlonipha A. Mokoena. Register at vlc@newschool.edu.
THERESA LANG COMMUNITY & STUDENT CENTER
55 WEST 13TH STREET, 2ND FLOOR, FREE WITH REGISTRATION

EXHIBITION OPENING

Post-Speculation, Act II
Sunday, September 21, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Exhibition related to the VLC publication *Speculation, Now*, curated by Carin Kuoni and Prem Krishnamurthy. Open until November 1.
P! EXHIBITION SPACE, 334 BROOME STREET, FREE

DISCUSSION

Aperture Magazine Live:
Photography & Fashion's Maverick Magazines
Wednesday, October 8, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

With Inez and Vinoodh, Charlotte Cotton, and Penny Martin
THE AUDITORIUM AT 66 WEST 12TH STREET, FREE

PUBLIC ART FUND TALKS AT THE NEW SCHOOL

Abraham Cruzvillegas
Wednesday, October 22, 6:30–8:00 p.m.

One of the most important conceptual artists of his generation to come from the vibrant art scene in Mexico City. He will speak on his ten-year body of work titled *Autoconstrucción*, or “self-building.”

12TH STREET AUDITORIUM, 66 WEST 12TH STREET

\$10 ADMISSION; FREE TO ALL STUDENTS AND THE NEW SCHOOL FACULTY, STAFF, AND ALUMNI WITH VALID ID

Cover image: Jeff Koons, *Split-Rocker*, 2000. Stainless steel, soil, geotextile fabric, internal irrigation system, and live flowering plants, 446 7/8 x 483 1/8 x 427 5/8 inches. Edition of 1 plus 1 AP. ©Jeff Koons. Courtesy Gagosian Gallery and Public Art Fund. Photography by Tom Powel Imaging.

Alvin Johnson-J.M.Kaplan Hall
66 West 12th Street, Room 604
New York, NY 10011
212.229.2436
vlc@newschool.edu
www.veralistcenter.org

**PUBLIC
ART FUND**

**THE VERA LIST CENTER
FOR ART AND POLITICS
THE NEW SCHOOL**