

DAN MILLS

Curatorial Overview

Artist, curator, and museum director Dan Mills has broad intellectual and aesthetic interests and expertise in contemporary art. Mills is known for investigating a wide variety of themes in expansive group exhibitions, and exploring the oeuvre of artists in in-depth solo exhibitions. He has shaped and led the curatorially adventuresome international programs at several institutions, and exhibitions he has curated have been presented at over forty institutions.

Mills is known for partnering with scholars and artists on large projects in order to investigate a wider range of topics, including an anthropocene-themed exhibition (with environmental studies); a psychological figurative painting and sculpture (studio art); contemporary art by Saudi artists (anthropology); Vietnamese shaman art (Asian Studies); and avant garde contemporary Chinese art (studio art). Other curatorial themes have included: visual story telling; performance in contemporary Chinese photography; photographs of Marsden Hartley; Epic Painting; and American identity art.

Mills has curated solo exhibitions of artists including Brian Alfred, Jeffery Becton, Dozier Bell, Jay Bolotin, Ashley Bryan, Manuel Alvarez Bravo, Agnes Denes, Lewis deSoto, David C. Driskell, James Ensor, Kate Gilmore, Fransje Killaars, Max Klinger, Martin Puryear, Shahzia Sikander, and Xiaoze Xie. Some of the many artists he has curated into group exhibitions include Ai Weiwei, Allora & Calzadilla, Sammy Baloji, Ursula Biemann, Xu Bing, Louise Bourgeois, Enrique Chagoya, Robert Colescott, Robert Feintuch, Donna Ferrato, Abdulnasser Gharem, Michele Grabner, Marsden Hartley, Laurie Hogin, Brad Kahlhamer, Christian Marclay, Ahmed Mater, Rona Pondick, Shirin Neshat, Nicky Nodjoumi, Adrian Piper, Rona Pondick, Alison Saar, Cindy Sherman, Kiki Smith, and Superflex.

Mills' curatorial projects have been presented at: Brown University; Chelsea Art Museum, NY; China Art Archives and Warehouse, Beijing; Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego; Otis College of Art and Design, LA; School of the Art Institute of Chicago; Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts; University of California, Santa Barbara; University of Oregon; University of Tennessee; University of Virginia; Utah Museum of Contemporary Art; Vanderbilt University; and Williams College. Institutions he has collaborated with and presented the exhibitions of include: Archives of American Art; David C. Driskell Center for the Study of the Visual Arts and Culture of African Americans and the African Diaspora, University of Maryland; CULTURUNNERS, Figge Art Museum; Flint Institute of Arts; Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art; University of Kentucky Art Museum; and University of Richmond Art Museums.

Selected programming lecturers have included: Sammy Baloji, Dawoud Bey, Phong Bui, Agnes Denes, David C. Driskell, Lisa Erf, Vanessa German, Kate Gilmore, Nikki Giovanni, Eleanor Heartney, Curlee Raven Holton, Brad Kahlhamer, Fransje Killaars, Hidecki Kimura, Liu Xiaodong, Diane Simpson, Roberto Tejada, Reiko Tomii, Carrie Mae Weems, Xiaoze Xie, John Yau, Yu Hong, and Zheng Huan.

Mills has been Director, Museum of Art, and Lecturer in the Humanities at Bates College since 2010.

www.bates.edu/museum