

## Dan Mills, Curatorial Overview

Artist/museum director Dan Mills is curatorially adventuresome. Over the last thirty+ years, he has investigated a wide variety of themes in group exhibitions and explored the oeuvre of numerous artists in solo exhibitions. His curatorial projects have been presented at over forty museums in the US and in China, in cities including Beijing, Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York, and academic institutions throughout the US.

Selected curatorial themes Mills' curatorial projects have addressed include: visual story telling by international artists; performance in contemporary Chinese photography; photographs of Marsden Hartley; artists who create disrupted imagery; artists who address epic subjects in large scale paintings; international video series focusing on dialogue; American identity artists; West African traditional objects; contemporary Australian aboriginal art; Mesoamerican masks; and artists and their collections and source materials.

Mills is known for partnering with scholars and artists on large projects in order to investigate a wider range of topics. These include: Environmental Studies Professor Jane Costlow and Mills partnered on an international anthropocene-themed exhibition accompanied by an extensive programming series (2018-19). Sculptor Rona Pondick and painter/professor Robert Feintuch and Mills collaborated on the first exhibition focusing on this couple's figurative and psychologically suggestive work (2018). Anthropology Professor Loring M. Danforth and Mills curated a major exhibition of contemporary art by Saudi artists (2016-17), the most substantial exhibition in the US at the time. Asian Studies Professor Trian Nguyen, collector Barry Kitnick, and Mills curated a major exhibition on Vietnamese shaman art (2014-15, traveled to UC Santa Barbara). Artist/professor Xiaoze Xie and Mills curated the first large group contemporary Chinese art exhibition to travel extensively throughout the US (2004-06, traveled to nine institutions). Artist/professor Marc Leuthold, curator Thomas Piché, Jr., and Mills curated an exhibition of recent American ceramics (1999).

Artists Mills has curated solo exhibitions of include Brian Alfred, Jeffery Becton, Dozier Bell, Jay Bolotin, Manuel Alvarez Bravo, Agnes Denes, Lewis deSoto, David C. Driskell, James Ensor, Vanessa German, Kate Gilmore, Fransje Killaars, Elizabeth King, Max Klinger, Martin Puryear, Shahzia Sikander, Obiara Udechukwu, Randy Williams, and Xiaoze Xie. Group exhibitions have included noted artists such as Ai Weiwei, Allora & Calzadilla, Sammy Baloji, Ursula Biemann, Xu Bing, Christian Boltanski, Louise Bourgeois, Kristin Capp, Enrique Chagoya, Judy Chicago, Robert Colescott, Robert Feintuch, Donna Ferrato, Michele Grabner, Marsden Hartley, Laurie Hogin, Jasper Johns, Brad Kahlhamer, Christian Marclay, Ahmed Mater, Rona Pondick, Shirin Neshat, Nicky Nodjoumi, Adrian Piper, Rona Pondick, Alison Saar, Cindy Sherman, Hollis Sigler, Kiki Smith, Superflex, and Rachel Whiteread.

Mills' curatorial projects have been presented at dozens of institutions including: the Art, Architecture & Design Museum, University of California, Santa Barbara; Bell Gallery, Brown University; Chelsea Art Museum, New York; China Art Archives and Warehouse, Beijing; Ewing Gallery, University of Tennessee; Harn Museum, University of Florida; Hanes Art Gallery, Wake Forest University; Haggerty Museum of Art, Marquette University; Michener Art Museum; Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego; Otis College of Art and Design, Los Angeles; Portland Museum of Art; Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, University of Oregon; The School of the Art Institute of Chicago; Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts Museum; University of Virginia Art Museum, Charlottesville; University of Wyoming Art Museum; Vanderbilt University Fine Art Gallery; Varo Beach Museum of Art; and Williams College Museum of Art.

As director, Mills has partnered with many institutions by presenting their exhibitions. These include: the Archives of American Art; University of Arizona Museum of Art; David C. Driskell Center for the Study of the Visual Arts and Culture of African Americans and the African Diaspora, University of Maryland; Figge Art Museum; Flint Institute of Arts; Illinois State University; International Collage Center; Newcomb Gallery, Tulane University; William Paterson University Galleries; Ewing Gallery, University of Tennessee, Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art; and University of Richmond Art Museums. Exhibition topics have included: art about jazz by African American artists; international collage; works about peace by John Lennon and Yoko Ono; Soviet non-conformist artist apartment exhibitions; avant garde Japanese art of the 1960s; breast cancer; painting as code, New York abstraction, and collections built by groundbreaking curator Katharine Kuh. Solo exhibitions have included Edward Burtynsky, William Christenberry, Joseph Delaney, Lalla Essaydi, Fritz Eichenberg, Öyvind Fahlström, Oswaldo Guayasamin, Charles "Teenie" Harris, Robert Indiana, Jin Soo Kim, June Leaf, and Carrie Mae Weems.