

Dan Mills, Curatorial Overview

Museum director/curator and artist 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.

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; American identity artists; West African objects; contemporary Australian aboriginal art; Mesoamerican masks; contemporary American ceramics; and artists and their collections and source materials.

Mills has also partnered with artists and scholars on large projects in order to investigate a wider range of topics. Mills and artist Xiaoze Xie curated the first large group contemporary Chinese art exhibition to travel to extensively throughout the US (2004-06, traveled to nine institutions). Scholar Trian Nguyen, collector Barry Kitnick, and Mills curated a major exhibition on Vietnamese shaman art (2014-15, traveled to UC Santa Barbara). Scholar Loring Danforth and Mills are curating Phantom Punch, one of four major exhibitions introducing the work of contemporary Saudi artists to US audiences in 2016.

Mills has curated solo exhibitions of artists including Brian Alfred, Jeffery Becton, Dozier Bell, Jay Bolotin, Manuel Alvarez Bravo, Agnes Denes, Lewis deSoto, James Ensor, Fransje Killaars, Elizabeth King, Max Klinger, Shahzia Sikander, Obiora Udechukwu, Randy Williams, and Xiaoze Xie. Group exhibitions have included noted artists such as Ai Weiwei, Xu Bing, Louise Bourgeois, Enrique Chagoya, Robert Colescott, Marsden Hartley, Laurie Hogin, Jasper Johns, Brad Kahlhamer, Christian Marclay, Shirin Neshat, Nicky Nodjoumi, Adrian Piper, Alison Saar, Cindy Sherman, Hollis Sigler, Kiki Smith, and Rachel Whiteread.

His curatorial projects have been presented at dozens of museums and academic institutions in the US and in China, 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.

Mills has partnered with many institutions to bring exhibitions that address a wide array of topics to the museums he has directed. Partner institutions have included the 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; International Collage Center; Newcomb Gallery, Tulane University; Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art; University of Richmond Art Museums; and William Paterson University. Selected exhibition topics have included: art about jazz by African American artists; international collage; a video series focusing on dialogue; works about peace by John Lennon and Yoko Ono; Soviet apartment exhibitions; avant garde Japanese art of the 1960s; before, during, and after breast cancer; painting as code, the enduring presence of New York abstraction, and the collections built by Katharine Kuh. Some of the artists who have been featured in solo exhibitions include 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.

Mills exhibits his work extensively. For more, www.dan-mills.net