

# CREATIVETIME

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## CREATIVE TIME PRESENTS PLOT09: *THIS WORLD & NEARER ONES* NYC'S FIRST PUBLIC ART QUADRENNIAL, ON GOVERNORS ISLAND, NYC

19 public art commissions by major international artists

Free, Opening June 27

Work by Mark Wallinger, Lawrence Weiner, Anthony McCall, Krzysztof Wodiczko, Patti Smith, AA Bronson, and more



### **PLOT09: *This World & Nearer Ones***

Opening June 27

Free and open to the public Fridays 11-4 and Saturdays and Sundays, 12-6

Digital press center: <http://creativetime.org/programs/archive/2009/GI/>

(May 29, 2009 New York, NY) **Creative Time** is pleased to announce its new public art quadrennial: **PLOT**, taking place on historic **Governors Island** and featuring **international artists** responding to the island with **new, site-responsive artworks**. The first edition of PLOT, ***This World & Nearer Ones***, is curated by **Mark Beasley**. The project is produced in association with **Governors Island Preservation and Education Corporation**, the **National Park Service**, **NYC & Company**, and the **Office of the Mayor**. The first edition, entitled ***This World & Nearer Ones***, will be curated by **Mark Beasley**. PLOT09 will draw thousands to Governors Island to explore the artwork and numerous other public programs. PLOT09 is **free and open to the public**, and will open on **June 27**.

*This World & Nearer Ones* will intervene in the architectural and natural fabric of the island, transforming its historic buildings and vast lawns—from the iconic Fort Jay to St. Cornelius Chapel—through installation, performance, video, and auditory works, inviting audiences to reconsider the island's past and future.

# CREATIVETIME

PLOT09 will feature artists from 9 different countries, including **Edgar Arceneaux, AA Bronson and Peter Hobbs, The Bruce High Quality Foundation, Adam Chodzko, Tue Greenfort, Jill Magid, Teresa Margolles, Anthony McCall, Nils Norman, Susan Philipsz, Patti Smith and Jesse Smith, Tercerunquinto, Tris Vonna-Michell, Mark Wallinger, Klaus Weber, Lawrence Weiner, Judi Werthein, Guido van der Werve,** and **Krzysztof Wodiczko**, realizing temporary projects in various sites throughout Governors Island.

Creative Time will open 5 buildings not usually accessible to the public, and artwork will activate other historic buildings and the verdant green spaces of the island that was one of the first settlements of the Dutch West India Company in 1624, a strategic coastal fortification in the early 1800s for the new American military, and home to a 1988 summit meeting between Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev. Artists will react to its close proximity to Lower Manhattan's Financial District, the Statue of Liberty, and Brooklyn and New Jersey's waterfronts with ephemeral, site-specific works.

The island—which sits in New York Harbor just off the southern tip of Manhattan and is accessible by a free ferry—is a place that is coming back to life. With more than 128,000 visitors in 2008 and a projected 200,000 visitors in 2009, Governors Island is poised for rebirth as a major cultural destination.

“We are thrilled to give New Yorkers and visitors to the city a major project that will be free and open to all,” says **Anne Pasternak**, President and Artistic Director of Creative Time. “PLOT will be a timeless investigation of ideas and site on a grand scale.”

“Governors Island is an incredible place where New Yorkers and visitors can discover artist projects by foot and by bike, entirely for free,” said **Leslie Koch**, GIPEC President. “Creative Time's *This World & Nearer Ones* will be one of this summer's signature experiences on the Island coming to life through the arts.”

Visitors will be able to enjoy self-guided walks and bike rides around *This World & Nearer Ones* as well as docent-led tours. An associated program will be presented, with special activities throughout the run of the show. Free ferries depart Manhattan regularly throughout the summer, Friday to Sunday.

Originally used as a fishing destination for local American Indian tribes, the island was settled by Europeans in 1624. Since then, it has seen waves of occupation and desertion, housing the US Army and finally the Coast Guard before falling into disuse. Inspired by a richly layered past and a future that has yet to be realized, artists will be responding to some of the most iconic landmarks and historic buildings on the island.

**For directions to the island, please visit:**

[http://www.govisland.com/Visit\\_the\\_Island/directions.asp](http://www.govisland.com/Visit_the_Island/directions.asp)

**Public hours:**

Fridays 11-4; Saturdays and Sundays 12-6

**For project themes, organizational info, and stats, see our digital press center at:**

<http://creativetime.org/programs/archive/2009/GI/>

# CREATIVETIME

## ABOUT CREATIVE TIME

After 35 years of New York–based projects, PLOT09: *This World & Nearer Ones* continues Creative Time’s commitment to igniting the cultural development of historic landmarks with ground-breaking art. Creative Time previously presented projects in Coney Island, the Highline, the Battery Maritime Building, the Brooklyn Bridge Anchorage, Grand Central Terminal, and most recently the Park Avenue Armory. Creative Time has worked with over 1,400 of the world’s most dynamic artists in its 35-year history. *Creative Time: The Book* was published on the occasion of the institution’s 33<sup>rd</sup> birthday, exploring each of its projects presented since 1974.

## ABOUT BLOOMBERG L.P.

Bloomberg L.P., headquartered in New York and employing more than 10,000 people in 136 offices worldwide, is the global provider of information for financial professionals. The BLOOMBERG PROFESSIONAL<sup>®</sup> service and Bloomberg's media services deliver real-time and archived market data, pricing, analytics, trading tools and news. Bloomberg supports charitable organizations around the world. The Company has a long-standing commitment to the arts, with an emphasis on providing access to cultural activity through sponsorship of outdoor performing arts programs, public art exhibitions and audio guides at various cultural institutions.

## ABOUT THE GOVERNORS ISLAND PRESERVATION AND EDUCATION CORPORATION (GIPEC)

The Governors Island Preservation and Education Corporation (GIPEC) is responsible for the planning, redevelopment, and ongoing operations for 150 acres of Governors Island. A partnership of New York City and New York State, GIPEC seeks to bring Governors Island back to life, making this island at the center of New York Harbor a destination with great public open space, as well as future education, not for profit and commercial facilities. For more information please visit [www.govisland.com](http://www.govisland.com).

## SUPPORT

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*This World & Nearer Ones* is made possible, in part, by generous support from the Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Bloomberg, the Consulate General of the Netherlands in New York, as part of the NY400 celebrations; the Danish Arts Council Committee for International Visual Art; Mondriaan Foundation; the National Endowment for the Arts; Warburg Pincus, LLC; and the Andy Warhol Foundation for Visual Arts.

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# CREATIVETIME

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

### Edgar Arceneaux

(Born Los Angeles, 1972) Lives and works in Los Angeles.

Edgar Arceneaux is interested in the relationship between artistic processes, most often drawing, and psychology, physics, and philosophy. He has had solo exhibitions at the Kunstverein Ulm, Germany; Galerie Kamm, Berlin; Frehrkring Wiesehoefer, Cologne; Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects; The Studio Museum of Harlem, New York and the Project, New York. **Inside one of the houses on Colonels Row, Edgar will create an installation using infrasound cannons that emit an inaudible sound that is known to create the illusion of fleeting and ghostly images. The vibrations will create the sensation of an uncanny or ominous presence inside the house, which from the outside seems like an idyllic home.**

### AA Bronson and Peter Hobbs

(Born 1946, Vancouver) Lives and works in New York.

AA Bronson founded General Idea with Jorge Zontal and Felix Partz in 1969. Bronson has since developed an independent practice that deals with trauma, loss, death, and healing. Currently he is Director of Printed Matter, Inc., New York. The MCA Chicago published his memoir, *Negative Thoughts*, in 2001. **For *This World & Nearer Ones*, AA Bronson and his collaborator Peter Hobbs will organize and orchestrate his *Invocation of the Queer Spirits*, a series commissioned by Creative Time with previous performances in New Orleans and Winnipeg, Canada.**

### The Bruce High Quality Foundation

(Founded in 2004) Based in Brooklyn, New York.

The Bruce High Quality Foundation was created to foster an alternative to everything. Offering “amateur solutions to professional problems,” their previous projects include the Brucennial, 2008; a retrospective at the Susan Inglett Gallery; and a series of musical vignettes entitled *Cats on Broadway*, 2007. **The Bruce High Quality Foundation will produce an original film shot on Governors Island telling the story of a zombie invasion. The film will be screened for the public in the islands Fort Jay Theater.**

### Adam Chodzko

(Born 1965, London) Lives and works in Whitstable, Kent.

Adam Chodzko works in a range of media including video, installation art, performance, and drawing in a practice that combines the strategies of conceptualism, documentary film, anthropology, and surrealism. Chodzko’s work is in the collections of the Tate, The British Council, The Arts Council, the Saatchi Gallery, and numerous museums and private collections. **Adam Chodzko’s video installation on Governors Island— sited in the bar of the officers club— recalls, condenses, reenacts, and dreams the island’s historical and future relationships with the ideas of exchange and transformation.**

### Tue Greenfort

(Born 1973, Denmark) Lives and works in Denmark and Berlin.

Tue Greenfort’s practice weaves links between public and private, corporate and personal, rural and urban worlds. Cross-disciplinary in its approach, his work is often direct in its institutional critique of global marketing and production practices. Greenfort has had solo shows at the Johann Koenig Gallery, Berlin; Frankfurter Kunstverein; and Witte de With, Rotterdam. **Greenfort will fence off a courtyard in the island’s Brick Village, recontextualizing the soon-to-be-demolished architecture into an pseudo-archaeological site. A series of signs will give the history of the Brick Village and the transformation about the island into a public park, asking visitors to consider how we designate structures for preservation or demolition.**

# CREATIVETIME

## **Jill Magid**

(Born 1973, Connecticut) Lives and works in Amsterdam and New York.

Jill Magid's work often deals with themes surrounding urban environments and "engagement with place." Magid's work opens up a new field of art and activism in which predictable forms of protest against the almighty eyes of power are turned into a dandy-like performance. **For the exhibition publication, Magid will provide a proposal for an unrealized project for the Governors Island ferry.**

## **Teresa Margolles**

(Born 1963, Mexico) Lives and works in Mexico City.

Teresa Margolles' work examines the traces and relics left by death resulting from acts of violence in Mexico City. Informed by her training and occupation as a forensic technician in Mexico City, her work incorporates materials from the morgue and the dissecting room, such as blood, shrouds, and the water used to wash bodies before autopsy. In 2000 she was awarded an acquisition prize in the competition *Cuerpo y Fruta* of the French Embassy in Mexico City. **Tying themes of violence in her native country of Mexico to Governors Island's complex military history, Margolles will transport a cinderblock wall—the scene of a drug-related murder—from the city of Culiacán, Mexico, to Governors Island.**

## **Anthony McCall**

(Born Britain, 1946) Lives and works in New York City.

British artist Anthony McCall was a key figure in the avant-garde London Filmmakers Co-op in the 1970s. After moving to New York in 1973, McCall developed his "solid light" film series, conceiving the now-legendary *Line Describing a Cone*, in 1973. **Housed inside St. Cornelius Chapel, McCall's installation for Governors Island will explore the artist's themes of time and sculptural and cinematic properties of light.**

## **Nils Norman**

(Born 1966 Kent, UK) Lives and works in London.

Nils Norman has developed his own mix of art and activism, examining histories of utopian thinking and ideas on alternative economic systems that can work within urban living conditions. Recent solo exhibitions include *Degenerate Cologne*, Galerie Christian Nagel, Köln 2006, *Hey Rudy!: A Phantom on the Streets of Schizz*, Galerie Christian Nagel, Berlin 2003. **Drawing on the visual languages of the Manhattan developer, 19th-century utopian pioneers, and 1960s Yippie and counterculture movements, Norman will create an encampment of communal, architectural structures for protest activities in an outdoor location on the island.**

## **Susan Philipsz**

(Born 1965, Glasgow) Lives and works in Berlin.

Susan Philipsz's work investigates the spatial and emotive properties of sound. Interested in the tension between collective and personal memory, the artist often utilizes public address systems to project her own intimate, unaccompanied renditions of popular songs into public spaces. Philipsz was awarded the PS1 International Studio Program in New York, 2000, and the International Artists Programme at Art Pace, San Antonio, 2003. **Philipsz will create an original sound installation on Lima pier, on the southern end of the island; to be experienced from the waterfront pathway.**

## **Patti and Jesse Smith**

(Born 1946 and 1987) Lives and works in New York.

Patti Smith is an American singer-songwriter, poet, and artist who was a highly influential component of the punk rock movement, integrating the beat poetry performance style with three-chord rock. Called "punk rock's poet laureate," she brought a feminist and intellectual take to

# CREATIVETIME

punk music. Smith is most widely known for the song *Because the Night*, which was co-written with Bruce Springsteen and reached number 13 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart in 1978. Aside from recording, performing, art, and writing, Patti is strongly involved in social issues and continues to participate in various human rights organizations. **Patti Smith will collaborate with her daughter Jesse to compose and audio piece, to be experienced on portable audio players while walking around the island.**

## **Tercerunquinto**

(Founded in 1996) Based in Mexico City

Tercerunquinto (translated roughly as “a third of a fifth”) is a collective comprised of Julio Castro (b. 1976), Gabriel Cázares (b. 1978), and Rolando Flores (b. 1975). They are responsible for dozens of projects designed, in their words, “to question the boundaries between private and public space.” Their projects often take the form of discrete, thoughtful interventions in architecture – such as their *Enlargement of a Green Area*, in which they extended an existing grassy patch in a parking lot into an inviting lawn. **The trio will initiate a simple action that is charged with a certain amount of violence: throwing a rock through the glass window of a historic building on the island. The final installation will include documentation of this action and an accompanying archive of their process.**

## **Tris Vonna-Michell**

(Born 1982, U.K.) Lives and works in London.

Vonna-Michell is a young artist whose rapidly burgeoning career has developed through the popularity of his mixture of storytelling, performance, and installation, and the construction of personal responses to historical events. His work *hahn/huhn* (2004-2007) and *Down the Rabbit-Hole* (2006-2007) are narrated with a frantic and honest determination, so much so that, when he performs, it's almost as if he's trying to carve the reality of each story into the atmosphere of the room. Tris recent exhibitions include the 2009 Tate Triennial and “The Generational: Younger than Jesus” at the New Museum. **Using his characteristic blend of storytelling, lecture, and performance, the artist will conceive a weekend performance—one tailored to the culture and history of Governors Island and that directly engages visitors individually and in groups.**

## **Mark Wallinger**

(Born 1959, Chigwell, Britain) Lives and works in London.

Wallinger studied at Chelsea School of Art, London (1978-81) and Goldsmiths' College, London (1983-85). Since the mid-1980s Wallinger's primary concern has been to establish a valid critical approach to the “politics of representation and the representation of politics.” He was short-listed for the Turner Prize in 1995 and represented Britain at the 49th Venice Biennale in 2001. **Wallinger will create an intervention on the Governors Island ferry, consisting of two signs referencing the biblical association of sheep and goats with good and evil, respectively. Approaching the symmetrical ferry, visitors will be confronted with this duality and asked to consider the ways we distinguish right from wrong.**

## **Klaus Weber**

(Born 1967, Germany) Lives and works in Berlin.

Klaus Weber works across a variety of media and spatial units, manipulating everyday structures that intend to undermine the metaphorical and actual power of a functionalist rationality. Weber repeatedly uses images of nature and explores the sustainable potential of the untamable in a humorous and anarchic manner. He has participated in group shows such as *Ecstasy: In and about Altered States*, The Geffen Contemporary Art MOCA, Los Angeles; *Manifesta 7*; at the KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin; and *Secession Gallery*, Vienna (2008). **Klaus Weber will install one of an oversized dark wind chime on Governors Island. It is designed to produce sonic patterns based on the Tritone—a musical interval consisting of three whole tones,**



# CREATIVETIME

which is often used as the main interval of dissonance in Western harmony, also known as the “devils interval.”

## Lawrence Weiner

(Born 1942, Bronx) Lives and Works in New York City and Amsterdam.

One of the central figures of Conceptual Art, Lawrence Weiner uses language and its potential as art in his work. The wall installations that have been his primary medium since the 1970s consist solely of words in a nondescript lettering painted on walls. The Whitney Museum recently mounted a 40-year retrospective of his work. **Weiner’s textual installation, AT THE SAME MOMENT, will appear on the wooden fender racks of the Manhattan ferry slip, evoking ideas of simultaneity, arrival, and of past and present discovery. The piece will be the first and last image visitors will encounter as they depart for and return from Governors Island.**

## Judi Werthein

(Born 1967, Argentina) Lives and works in Brooklyn and Buenos Aires.

Werthein investigates, both aesthetically and critically, the corporatization of culture, and also plays with the trend of arts organizations to devise ever more attractive and unique graphic identities. Werthein came to national prominence with *Brinco*, a project in which she distributed customized sneakers for free to Mexican immigrants about to attempt an illegal crossing into the United States. She has been selected for solo exhibitions at the Chinati Foundation; Centro Cultural Borjes, Buenos Aires; Bronx Museum of Art; Centro Cultural San Martin (Buenos Aires), among other venues. **Werthein will screen an original film, La Tierra de los Libres, made in 2008. The film will be shown throughout the summer in a military residence in Nolan Park, Governors Island.**

## Guido van der Werve

(Born 1977 in The Netherlands) Lives and works in Amsterdam.

Guido van der Werve's work navigates the fine line between visual art and film. His film vignettes— which always feature the artist as protagonist— blend text, music, performance, and narrative in an exploration of the language of cinematography. Van der Werve’s work was awarded with the René Coelho Award of the Netherlands Media Institute in 2003. **A selection of the artists films will be installed and screened throughout the run of the exhibition.**

## Krzysztof Wodiczko

(Born 1943, Warsaw, Poland) Lives and works in New York and Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Since 1980, Krzysztof Wodiczko has created more than seventy large-scale slide and video projections of politically charged images on architectural façades and monuments worldwide. Wodiczko heads the Interrogative Design Group and is Director of the Center for Advanced Visual Studies, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He received the 1999 Hiroshima Art Prize for his contribution as an artist to world peace, and the 2004 College Art Association Award for Distinguished Body of Work. **The artist will create a multi-sensory installation in which the projection of a moving flame responds to the recorded voices of soldiers who served in Iraq and Afghanistan recounting their experiences of wartime and its aftermath.**