

# CREATIVETIME

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## **THE 2012 CREATIVE TIME SUMMIT TO FOCUS ON CONFRONTING INEQUITY ACROSS THE GLOBE**

**Fourth Annual Conference on Socially Engaged Art Practice Will Also Feature Annenberg Prize Winner**

**Thirty Global Partners will Screen the Presentations Around the World via Livestream**



*The 2012 Creative Time Summit at NYU's Skirball Center for the Performing Arts, October 12–13. Photo: Sam Horine.*

August 13, 2012 – New York, NY – To advance its mission of positioning the voices of artists at the center of public discourse, New York City-based public arts organization Creative Time will host the fourth annual Creative Time Summit conference at NYU's Skirball Center for the Performing Arts on October 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. The conference will bring together an international group of over 30 presenters—including artists, curators, visionaries, and activists—to discuss how their work engages pressing issues affecting our world and to provide a glimpse into the political implications of socially engaged art. This year's conference, curated by Creative Time Chief Curator Nato Thompson, is titled *The Creative Time Summit: Confronting Inequity*. Presentations will respond to recent upheavals in the international political and economic climate by focusing specifically on the topic of wealth inequality across the globe and the ways in which it erodes democracy. Keynote speakers include renowned cultural critic Slavoj Žižek and multimedia artist Martha Rosler. Creative Time will also honor Spanish artist Fernando García-Dory with the 2012 Leonore Annenberg Prize for Art and Social Change, a \$25,000 award given every year to an artist whose work has been devoted to instigating social awareness and harnessing the communicative power of art to engage communities around critical public issues.

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In taking on financial inequity, the Summit will explore how extreme income gaps threaten to undermine even the most robust democracies, and have contributed to the rise of new movements working for change against high concentrations of wealth and power. The 2012 Summit will present the work of artists and activists who contribute to such movements, changing public discourse and political debates, and in some cases, unseating regimes. From the Occupy movement to the uprising in Syria, Summit participants will examine recent global protests and delve into the innovative strategies, tactics, and art created by the presenters to confront inequity.

In order to bring the most dynamic thinking around this timely issue to an expanded global audience, Creative Time has tripled its partnerships with organizations that will Livestream the conference to thirty screening locations including India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, Italy, Thailand, South Africa, Uruguay, Chile, Canada and cities across the United States.

Creative Time Chief Curator Nato Thompson, says, “We have seen a year of global unrest and all of it is geared toward a growing gap of inequity that demands accountability. Cultural producers worldwide are not merely participating in these movements, but many are operating at its historic center.” Laura Raicovich, Creative Time’s Director of Global Initiatives, of which the Summit is a cornerstone, says, “Our goal at Creative Time is to connect socially-engaged artists with a global audience to foster a dynamic public dialogue around the most pressing issues of our time. As extreme gaps in wealth and power are revealed to undercut democratic values, makers of all stripes are driving thinking and action within diverse movements for greater equality. Artists, activists, and thinkers challenging the status quo together can inspire people to move mountains. ”

The 2012 Summit will unfold over two days in order to provide audiences the opportunity to delve more deeply into discussion of the topics at hand. Day One will consist of a series of concise, dynamic presentations providing overviews of specific projects, while Day Two will engage the audience in smaller and more intimate Sessions, each led by a presenter from Day One and a moderator. The organization [Conflict Kitchen](#) will be providing lunch during Day One at Judson Church for \$20. Operating seven days a week in the center of Pittsburgh, Conflict Kitchen is a take-out restaurant that exclusively serves cuisine from countries with which the United States is in conflict.

Presentations on Day One will be grouped into four main thematic sections dealing with income inequality and socioeconomic disparities around the world, namely: Inequities, Occupations, Making, and Tactics. The first section, “Inequities,” will lay the groundwork for the first day of the conference by investigating central issues including healthcare, housing, women’s rights, media equality, and economic injustice. Presenters include the Los Angeles Poverty Department (L.A.P.D.), made up of artists and activists living and working on LA’s Skid Row; Taring Padi, a radical artist collective based in Indonesia; Malkia Cyril, Founder and Executive Director of the Center for Media Justice; Jodie Evans, an activist and co-founder of CODEPINK, and Suzanne Lacy, the internationally known artist, activist, educator, and writer; and Skart, a multimedia artist group based in Belgrade, Serbia. The second section, “Occupations,” will feature “ground reports” from representatives of some of the key political movements that have taken shape over the past eighteen months in Madrid, Cairo, Syria, New York, Los Angeles, and Moscow. Participants in the “Making” section will examine the intersections of cultural production and political action in filmmaking, visual art and curatorial practices. Presenters include Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev, the curator of documenta(13); Oda Projesi, an artist collective based in Istanbul, Turkey; Oscar-nominated documentary film director and producer Laura Poitras; Otolith Group, a collective based in the UK; and Hito Steyerl, a Japanese visual artist, filmmaker, and author. The final section, “Tactics,” will explore creative strategies used to mobilize movements and spread political messages via means other than the mainstream media. Presenters include Steve Lambert, an American artist working with issues of advertising and public space; BijaRi, an artist collective based in Brazil; Josh MacPhee, the founder of Just Seeds Artists’ Cooperative in Pittsburgh; and The Invisible Borders Trans-African Photography Project based in Nigeria.

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Also at this year's Summit, Creative Time will award the Leonore Annenberg Prize for Art and Social Change to Spanish artist, activist and agro-ecologist Fernando García-Dory, whose work focuses on the relationship between contemporary culture and the natural world. García-Dory explores the physical, psychological and social impact of rural landscapes, including the questions and (mis)conceptions of identity, desire and utopia that they provoke. Driven by a belief that art must be "proactive, not just reactive action," he has become a leader in the field of socially engaged art. Although the artist's studio works include sculpture and painting, his larger projects extend far beyond the boundaries of traditional art practice. García-Dory's work has permanently engaged and transformed one of the world's most underrepresented and—at a population of an estimated 40 million—widespread communities: the Diaspora, or what Dory refers to as "the nomadic peoples." Most recently, García-Dory has collaborated with American artist Amy Franceschini in *Land/Use. A Blueprint for New Pastoralism*, presented at the David Brower Center in Berkeley, California. The multi-part show transformed the gallery into a functional exhibition space promoting discussion as well as visual engagement for the surrounding works pertaining to environmental activism. García-Dory has been shown at museums and galleries internationally, including the Barcelona Museum of Contemporary Art (MACBA), the Tate Britain in London and the Museo Reina Sofía in Madrid. Additionally, he was the recipient of the 2009 Artistic Production Grant from the Laboral Center of Art and Industrial Creation and the Youth Commissions Grant of the European Union (2003-2005), and was a contributor to this year's dOCUMENTA publication *100 Notes – 100 Thoughts*.

The Leonore Annenberg Prize for Art and Social Change is generously supported by the Annenberg Foundation and furthers Creative Time's 40-year-long commitment to commissioning and presenting groundbreaking, historically important artwork and fostering a culture of experimentation and change. This year's recipient was selected by a panel of three judges: Tom Finkelpearl, Executive Director of the Queens Museum of Art, curator Jack Persekian, and Dutch artist Jeanne van Heeswijk, last year's recipient of the Annenberg Prize. The award will be presented by Creative Time Board Member Elizabeth K. Kabler. Previous recipients of the award include the Yes Men (2009) for their ongoing efforts to raise awareness around critical social issues through their media-savvy interventions; Rick Lowe (2010) for his work on *Project Row Houses* in Houston, which has become a model for the integration of the arts into a neighborhood infrastructure; and van Heeswijk (2011), whose work is distinguished by her continued commitment to helping citizens enact social change in their own communities.

## **2012 Summit Schedule: Day One**

### **10:00 - 10:15 AM**

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Nato Thompson, Chief Curator, and Laura Raicovich, Director of Global Initiatives

### **10:15 - 10:30 AM**

Performance

Pablo Helguera

### **10:30 - 10:50 AM**

Keynote Presentation

Martha Rosler

### **10:50 - 11:50 AM**

Section 1: *Inequities*

Malkia Cyril

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L.A.P.D (Los Angeles Poverty Department)  
Joia Mukherjee  
Škart

Taring Padi  
Jodie Evans and Suzanne Lacy

**11:50 AM - 12:00 PM**

BREAK

**12:00 – 12:55 PM**

Section 2: *Occupations*  
Leonidas Martin  
Tidal Magazine  
Mosireen  
Rabih Mroué (Video)  
TBD

**12:55 - 2:25 PM**

Lunch

*(Attendees with tickets to Roundtable Lunch with Conflict Kitchen report to Judson Memorial Church, 55 Washington Square South)*

**2:25 - 2:35 PM**

Welcome and About the Leonore Annenberg Prize for Art and Social Change  
Anne Pasternak

**2:35 – 2:55 PM**

Keynote Address

**2:55 - 3:00 PM**

Presentation of the Prize  
Elizabeth K. Kabler

**3:00 - 3:20 PM**

Presentation by Prize Recipient  
Fernando García-Dory

**3:20 - 3:30 PM**

Break

**3:30 – 3:50 PM**

Keynote Presentation  
Slavoj Žižek

**3:50 – 5:00 PM**

Section 3: *Making*  
Michael Rakowitz

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Oda Projesi  
Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev  
Invisible Borders  
Hito Steyerl  
Otolith Group  
Open Call Winner - TBC

## **5:00 - 5:10 PM**

Break

## **5:10 - 5:25 PM**

Performance  
Rebel Diaz

## **5:25 - 6:25 PM**

Section 4: *Tactics*  
Jeff Chang  
Steve Lambert  
Laura Poitras  
BijaRi  
Josh MacPhee

## **6-25 - 6:35 PM**

Closing Remarks  
Anne Pasternak and Nato Thompson

## **Tickets**

"Early-bird" tickets are available August 15 - September 14 (Day One only: \$55, Days One & Two: \$85, Lunch: \$20). Regular tickets go on sale September 15 (\$65/\$85).

## **ABOUT THE CREATIVE TIME SUMMIT**

The Creative Time Summit was initiated in 2009 in response to the urgent call of a growing community of cultural practitioners working in the realm of social justice and socially engaged art practice. The conference brings together a diverse group of artists, activists, writers, and curators whose projects utilize a vast array of practices and methodologies that engage with the canvas of everyday life. Participants range from art world luminaries to those purposefully obscure, providing a glimpse into an evolving community concerned with the political implications of socially engaged art. The Creative Time Summit is meant to be an opportunity to not only uncover the tensions that such a global form of working presents, but also to provide opportunities for new coalitions and sympathetic affinities. The first three iterations of the Summit featured more than 130 presentations by international artists, writers, curators, activists, organizers, and others for a live audience of over 2,500 and more than 30,000 additional viewers online via Creative Time's dedicated Livestream channel.]

Tickets are available for purchase at [www.creativetime.org/summittickets](http://www.creativetime.org/summittickets) and the event will be featured on Livestream via Creative Time's website. Visit [www.creativetime.org/summit](http://www.creativetime.org/summit) for more information.

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## **ABOUT CREATIVE TIME**

Since 1974, Creative Time has presented the most innovative art in the public realm. The New York-based nonprofit has worked with over 2,000 artists to produce more than 335 groundbreaking public art projects that have ignited the public's imagination, explored ideas that shape society, and engaged millions of people around the globe.

Creative Time seeks to convert the power of artists' ideas into works that inspire social change and stimulate public dialogue on timely issues, while initiating a dynamic conversation among artists, sites, and audiences. A vanguard presenter of public art in New York, Creative Time recently began presenting national and global projects and initiatives, making it the only public arts organization with programs that have reached from New York to New Orleans, Haiti to Hanoi, and Dubai to Denver. These projects further Creative Time's belief in the importance of artists in society and the power of art to raise consciousness, expose injustices, and imagine a better world.

For more information on Creative Time's programming, please visit [www.creativetime.org](http://www.creativetime.org)

## **SUPPORT**

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