

Nato Thompson Named Artistic Director of Philadelphia Contemporary



Philadelphia - Philadelphia Contemporary announces that Nato Thompson will become its inaugural Artistic Director. He will work with Philadelphia Contemporary Founding Director Harry Philbrick on the curatorial development of the new multidisciplinary arts organization. Thompson will take on the role of Artistic Director after more than a decade as Artistic Director at Creative Time in New York City.

“I am thrilled to have Nato Thompson’s broad ranging intellect, commitment to artists - and his engagement with the concept of the civic - inform our curatorial program. I look forward to working closely with Nato as we build a new cultural institution for Philadelphia.” says Philbrick.

Thompson will assume his position in November 2017. “I’ve had a great run at Creative Time. I love my colleagues and we have collectively shaped art history together,” says Thompson. “I’m eager to turn my attention to the city I love and to work with Harry and the emerging team at Philadelphia Contemporary to produce a groundbreaking cultural platform for art in the 21st century.”

Thompson joined Creative Time in January 2007. Since then, he has organized major projects such as The Creative Time Summit (2009–2017), Pedro Reyes’ *Doomocracy* (2016), Kara Walker’s *A Subtlety* (2014), *Living as Form* (2011), Trevor Paglen’s *The Last Pictures* (2012), Paul Ramírez Jonas’s *Key to the City* (2010), Jeremy Deller’s *It is What it is* (2009, with New Museum curators Laura Hoptman and Amy Mackie), *Democracy in America: The National Campaign* (2008), and Paul Chan’s *Waiting for Godot in New Orleans* (2007). Previously, he worked as Curator at MASS MoCA, where he completed numerous large-scale exhibitions, including *The Interventionists: Art in the Social Sphere* (2004). He has written two books of cultural criticism, *Seeing Power: Art and Activism in the 21st Century* (2015) and *Culture as Weapon: The Art of Influence in Everyday Life* (2017).

Philadelphia Contemporary, founded in 2016, is a free-standing platform that endeavors to show forward-thinking, high-quality contemporary visual and performance art. The institution is an emerging nexus for cultural producers, established institutions, supporters, as well as diverse audiences and communities in the city and beyond. In the coming years Philadelphia Contemporary aims to build a non-collecting, multi-disciplinary, and sustainable art venue for the 21st century. Emphasizing partnerships and collaboration, Philadelphia Contemporary will bring innovative local, national, and international contemporary art to Philadelphia's communities.

Philadelphia Contemporary is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

For more information, visit philadelphiacontemporary.org

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Image by Alyssa Maloof