

Press Release, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Serpentine and The FLAG Art Foundation announce selection committee



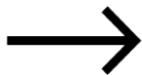
Images From left to right: Michelle Kuo. Photo: The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Venus Lau. Photo: Muhammad Fadli. Hans Ulrich Obrist. Photo: Frank Bauer. Jon Rider. Photo: Jordan Tiberio. Rirkrit Tiravanija. Courtesy of the artist and David Zwirner. Photo: Daniel Dorsa.

**Serpentine and The FLAG Art Foundation are delighted to announce the selection committee for the Serpentine x FLAG Art Foundation Prize. The jury comprises Michelle Kuo, Venus Lau, Hans Ulrich Obrist (Serpentine), Jon Rider (FLAG Art Foundation) and Rirkrit Tiravanija.**

Over the next decade, a total of £1 million (£200,000 biennially) will be awarded to five recipients providing unmatched support at a pivotal moment in their careers. This is the UK's largest contemporary art prize given to a single artist.

The jury convened in London on Thursday 23 April to select the inaugural prize winner which will be announced on 12 May.

The prize is intended to provide artists, at a significant stage in their careers, with the freedom, time, and material support to develop a substantial new body of work, exhibit it, and then explore new ideas or directions in their practice.



Artists selected for the prize by the jury will be of any generation or age, from all geographies, will have been exhibiting professionally in major global institutions for less than 10 years and will be actively working to grow and sustain a strong record of international museum and gallery exhibitions, including gallery representation, honours, awards, art critic reviews, grants and publications.

This long-term partnership establishes a decade-long collaboration, awarding five prizes to five outstanding artists. The first artist to be awarded funds will be selected in 2026, with the inaugural exhibition set to open at Serpentine in London in Autumn 2027, before travelling to FLAG in New York in Spring 2028. Each presentation will be accompanied by a dedicated catalogue and a dynamic live programme, developed and produced collaboratively by both institutions.

This collaboration reflects the shared commitment between FLAG and Serpentine to support artistic experimentation, and exchange across borders. The Serpentine x FLAG Art Foundation Prize underscores both organisations' belief in the power of collaboration to shape the future of contemporary art.

Over the last six years, the Suzanne Deal Booth / FLAG Art Foundation Prize, co-organised with The Contemporary Austin, has seen FLAG support a number of artists with direct funds, along with an exhibition and corresponding publication. Artists include Nicole Eisenman (2020), Tarek Atoui (2022), Lubaina Himid (2024) and Sable Elyse Smith (2026).

### About the Selection Committee

**Michelle Kuo** is a curator, writer and art historian, currently serving as Chief Curator at Large and Publisher at The Museum of Modern Art, NY. Since joining in 2018, she has led major exhibitions, acquisitions and publications, with a focus on interdisciplinary approaches to modern and contemporary art.

Previously, she was Editor-in-Chief of *Artforum International* (2010–2017), where she expanded the magazine's critical scope. Kuo holds a PhD from Harvard University and has taught at leading institutions, while contributing widely to writing on contemporary art and culture.

**Venus Lau** is the director of Museum MACAN in Jakarta. Before the current position, Lau worked for Modern (Meta) Media Group as the Art Strategic Director after serving as the artistic director at K11 Art Foundation (KAF). For the latter role, she oversaw the Foundation's artistic programming, providing insight on creative content building for projects, including German artist Katharina Grosse's first solo exhibition in China, *Mumbling Mud*; KAF's group exhibitions *Glow like That* and *Emerald City* in Hong Kong; and *Betty Woodman: House and Universe* at chi K11 art museum in Shanghai. Before joining KAF, Lau was the artistic director of OCT Contemporary Art Terminal, Shenzhen, where she curated exhibitions including *Digging a Hole* in China, a group exhibition on



land art as an administrative concept in China, *The Enormous Space*: Cui Jie and Lee Kit and Simon Denny's solo project *Real Mass Entrepreneurship*. While curating at Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, Lau curated the *Secret Timezones Trilogy* series, which comprised solo exhibitions of Ming Wong, Korakrit Arunanondchai, and Haegue Yang.

**Hans Ulrich Obrist** is Artistic Director of Serpentine in London, and Senior Advisor at LUMA Arles. Prior to this, he was the Curator of the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris. Since his first show "*World Soup*" (*The Kitchen Show*) in 1991, he has curated more than 350 shows.

Obrist's recent publications include *Ways of Curating* (2015), *The Age of Earthquakes* (2015), *Lives of the Artists*, *Lives of Architects* (2015), *The Extreme Self: Age of You* (2021), and *140 Ideas for Planet Earth* (2021), *Edouard Glissant: Archipelago* (2021), *James Lovelock: Ever Gaia* (2023) *Remember to Dream* (2023), and *Une vie in Progress* (2023).

**Jonathan Rider** is an artist, curator, and writer based in New York, NY. Rider is the Director at The FLAG Art Foundation, where he has worked since 2014. Previously, he was the Assistant Curator at Art at General from 2011-14. Rider received a BA from Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA, in 2005, and an MFA from the School of Visual Arts, New York, NY, in 2011. His writing has appeared in *Art in America*.

**Rirkrit Tiravanija** is an internationally acclaimed artist associated with relational aesthetics, known for works that foreground participation, hospitality and social exchange. Born in Buenos Aires and raised across Thailand, Ethiopia and Canada, his practice spans installation, sculpture, film and public projects.

He has exhibited widely, including at the Venice Biennale and major museums worldwide. Tiravanija is a co-founder of The Land Foundation in Chiang Mai, and his work often explores community, politics and the everyday through shared experiences.

## About Serpentine

Building new connections between artists and audiences, Serpentine, led by Bettina Korek, CEO and Hans Ulrich Obrist, Artistic Director, presents pioneering contemporary art exhibitions and cultural events with a legacy that stretches back over half a century, from a wide range of emerging practitioners to the most internationally recognised artists, writers, scientists, thinkers, and cultural thought leaders of our time.

Based in London's Kensington Gardens, across two sites, Serpentine North and Serpentine South, Serpentine features a year-round, free programme of exhibitions, architectural showcases, education, live events, and technological activations, in the park and beyond the gallery walls.



The Serpentine Pavilion is a yearly pioneering commission, which began in 2000 with Dame Zaha Hadid. It features the first UK structures by some of the biggest names in international architecture.

Public art has emerged as a central strand of Serpentine's programme. Major presentations include a collection of Eduardo Paolozzi's sculptures (1987), Anish Kapoor's *Turning the World Upside Down* (2010), Lee Ufan's *Relatum – Stage* (2018-19), Christo and Jeanne-Claude's *London Mastaba* in the Serpentine Lake (2018), *I LOVE YOU EARTH* by Yoko Ono (2021), Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster's *In remembrance of the coming alien (Alienor)* (2022), Atta Kwami's *Dzidzɔ kple amenuveve* (Joy and Grace) (2021-22), Gerhard Richter's *STRIP-TOWER* (2023), Yayoi Kusama's *Pumpkin* (2024), Esther Mahlangu's mural *Umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu* (2024) and Giuseppe Penone's *Albero folgorato (Thunderstruck Tree, 2012) and Idee di pietra (Ideas of Stone, 2010 – 2024); (2025-2026)*.

Proud to maintain free access for all visitors, Serpentine reaches an exceptionally broad audience and maintains a profound connection with its local community.

### **About FLAG Art Foundation**

The FLAG Art Foundation is a non-collecting, nonprofit exhibition space that mounts solo, two-person, and thematic group exhibitions centering on emerging and established artists from around the globe. Organized by a diverse community of curators and thinkers within and beyond the art world, FLAG opened to the public in 2008 and has staged over 100 exhibitions celebrating the work of nearly 1,000 artists. Committed to providing education and resources for its surrounding community, and across New York City, all exhibitions and programs—including artist talks, artist-led workshops, and guided tours for school and museum groups—are free and open to the public.

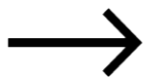
The FLAG Art Foundation was founded by Glenn Fuhrman, an art patron and philanthropist, and alongside his wife Amanda, a Co-Founder of The Fuhrman Family Foundation. During his undergraduate studies, he studied Art History in London at University College London (UCL). Fuhrman is a Trustee of New York-Presbyterian Hospital, New York, NY, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY, The Tate Americas Foundation, New York, NY, and is a Board Member of The Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadelphia, PA. He is also a Board Member of the 92nd Street Y, New York, and The Central Park Conservancy, New York, NY.

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