

The logo for FAD (Frieze Art Day) consists of the letters 'FAD' in a bold, white, sans-serif font, followed by a horizontal line that extends to the right and then curves downwards at the end. The logo is set against a solid orange square background.

THE ARMORY SHOW REVEALS 2023 PLATFORM PROJECTS.

By Mark Westall • 11 August 2023



The Armory Show has revealed its 2023 Platform projects- 12 large-scale installations to be displayed at the fair's centre- curated by Eva Respini, Deputy Director and Director of Curatorial Programs at the Vancouver Art Gallery.

Platform 2023 is dedicated to large-scale installations and site-specific works under the theme of "Rewriting Histories," spotlighting artists who expand or challenge the canon of art, history, or culture. The section delves into artists' responses to the constraints of official archives and narratives, utilizing sculptural forms to address the gaps and

omissions in history.

Respini has chosen twelve artists for Platform 2023: Agnes Denes presented by Leslie Tonkonow Artworks + Projects (New York) and Marc Selwyn Fine Art (Los Angeles); Woody De Othello presented by Jessica Silverman (San Francisco); Teresita Fernández presented by Lehmann Maupin (New York, Seoul, London, Palm Beach, Hong Kong); Barthélémy Toguo presented by Galerie Lelong & Co. (New York, Paris); Devan Shimoyama presented by De Buck Gallery (New York); Jean Shin presented by Praise Shadows Art Gallery (Boston); Yinka Shonibare CBE, RA presented by James Cohan (New York); Shahzia Sikander presented by Sean Kelly (New York, Los Angeles); Vaughn Spann presented by David Castillo (Miami); Pae White presented by Jessica Silverman

(San Francisco); Hank Willis Thomas presented by Ben Brown Fine Arts (London, Hong Kong, Palm Beach); and Xu Zhen® presented by James Cohan (New York).

These works will be prominently featured throughout the fair's Agora, running through the center of the event. Under Respini's curatorial vision, the section aims to embrace a polyphonic perspective, considering previously disregarded or marginalized artists and geographies, artists engaged in communal dialogues, self-taught artists, artists working within craft traditions and hand-made processes, and those practicing spiritual and healing-based approaches.

Are we living at the hinge of history, as has been theorized? The last few years have been a period of enormous instability and uncertainty. How do artists help us navigate this moment, reframe the past through the present, and account for history's omissions and erasures?

said Eva Respini in her curatorial statement.

Under the loose theme of 'Rewriting Histories,' this presentation features artists expanding or challenging the historical canon, which is often preoccupied by inclusion and exclusion. These artists use history as material, imagine speculative futures, and employ a variety of material traditions as means of history-telling. Topics include the complex histories tied to colonialism, land, and power; the legacy of labor and migration movements in the 20th century; the combining of disparate accounts to underscore history's subjectivity; and how materials carry their own cultural values and meanings. Although their materials and approaches vary, collectively, the artists in Platform 2023 are invested in world-building.

Eva has selected an extraordinary group of artists whose work we eagerly anticipate seeing on display at the fair this fall, this wonderfully diverse group of artists vary in age, nationality, and artistic practice, yet they share a mission to use their work to elevate overlooked perspectives, introduce untold narratives, and highlight missing history.

Nicole Berry, The Armory Show Executive Director

Presentation Details:

Vaughn Spann, *Monument*, 2023, David Castillo (Miami)

Comprising three 10-by-10-foot paintings, ***Monument*** creates a complete environment that envelops the viewer in layers of textured paint and color. In an extension of Spann's ***Marked Man*** series, the **X** featured in each canvas is serially repeated, alluding to the forms of modernist painting, minimalist sculpture, or pop art. Spann is interested in assigning new meaning to an extremely recognizable form. Depending on context, this symbol might be read as a reference to police brutality, a sign of negation, a designated location, a signature, or an allusion to Malcolm X.

The Armory Show, Friday, September 8th–Sunday, September 10th, 2023
thearmoryshow.com

About Eva Respini

Eva Respini is Deputy Director and Director of Curatorial Programs at the Vancouver Art Gallery. She previously served as ICA's Barbara Lee Chief Curator from 2015 until 2023. Prior to this, Respini was Curator at the Museum of Modern Art for over a decade, and curator and co-commissioner for the 2022 U.S. Pavilion's historic presentation of Simone Leigh in the 59th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia. She organized the first mid-career survey of Simone Leigh's work, which opened at the ICA in April 2023, and is currently making its tour across the country. Specializing in global contemporary art and image-making practices, Respini has organized at the ICA such critically acclaimed group exhibitions as *Art in the Age of the Internet, 1989 to Today* (2018); *When Home Won't Let You Stay: Migration through Contemporary Art* (2019); and ambitious solo presentations such as *Deana Lawson* (2021); *Firelei Báez* (2021); *John Akomfrah: Purple* (2019) and *Huma Bhabha* (2019). Respini has been a visiting lecturer, critic, and speaker at a number of universities, and currently teaches at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design. She has published numerous books and catalogues and her writing appears in museum publications and periodicals.