



Art News Now: Christo's Floating Sculpture, The Frick's New Project Designs, Berkshire Museum Suit Settled and more

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by Pat Rogers

Have a minute? Get caught up with art news people are talking about this week. In this edition, The Frick unveils the latest design for a planned expansion and renovation project, Christo's London sculpture gets underway, Creative Time unfurl's its latest artist flag and plenty of other art news to know.

The Frick Collection unveiled the design for its renovation and expansion by Selldorf Architects, [announced the museum](#). The design provides unprecedented access to the original 1914 home of Henry Clay Frick and restores the 70th Street Garden, according to the museum. The plans call for improvements for the display of the permanent collection, special exhibitions, programming, conservation, education as well as upgrading visitor amenities. The renovation is scheduled to begin in 2020. The construction budget is \$160 million and encompasses 60,000 square feet of repurposed space and 27,000 square feet of new contraction. Click [here](#) to see renderings of the proposed designs.

The design was developed by [Selldorf Architects](#) of New York with Beyer Blinder Belle as Executive Architect. The restoration of the 70th Street Garden will be spearheaded by garden designer and preservationist [Lynden B. Miller](#) of New York and will work with The Frick to align with the vision of the garden's creator Russell Page, according to the museum.

Construction has begun on Christo's floating sculpture *The Mastaba (Project for London, Hyde Park, Serpentine Lake)*, [announced The Royal Parks](#). The temporary sculpture will float on London's Serpentine Lake from June 18 to September 2018. It is the artist's first major public outdoor work in the UK and coincides with an exhibition at Serpentine Galleries of Christo and Jeanne-Claude's work. Both the exhibition and the public sculpture draw upon the pair's history of barrel art work. The new sculpture will be made up of 7,506 horizontally stacked barrels on a floating platform and built by a team of engineers, according to The Royal Parks. Click [here](#) for more information and details about the sculpture and the project.



“Christo The Mastaba (Project for London, Hyde Park, Serpentine Lake)” Collage, 2017. Pencil, wax crayon, enamel paint, color photograph by Wolfgang Volz, technical data and tape on brown board, 21.5 x 28 cm. Private collection, Switzerland. Photo by André Grossmann. ©2017 Christo. Courtesy The Royal Parks.

The Berkshire Museum has won its court battle and can now sell around 40 artworks from its collection that were embattled in the lawsuit including art by Norman Rockwell, Alexander Calder, Francis Picabia and others, [reported ArtNews](#). The move to sell works from its collection to help close the museum continue to operate and continue to plan for its future. The decision allows the planned Sotheby’s sale in New York to go forward as well as a private sale of the Rockwell painting to an undisclosed institution who as agreed to purchase the painting, according to *ArtNews*.

A flag by Rirkrit Tiravanija now flies at 21 institutions in 16 states as part of Creative Time’s “Pledges of Allegiance” project which commissioned a large pool of artists to create a flag to conjure the spirit of political resistance, announced the organization. Tiravanija’s flag has superimposed the words “FEAR EATS THE SOUL” over an adapted version of the American Flag that is clad in white with thin black lines.

The four-word phrase references German filmmaker Rainer Werner Fassbinder’s 1974 film “Ali: Fear Eats the Soul” where the film’s two lead characters commence an unlikely relationship that bring out their own deepest fears as much as the xenophobia and racism of their surroundings, according to Mass MoCA. The phrase as appeared in art by the Argentinian-born artist over the years.

Tiravanija’s flag can be seen flying from April 4 to 25, 2018 at Mass MoCA in North Adams, MA; Pratt Institute in Brooklyn; RISD Museum in Providence, RI; the [Zimmerli Art Museum at Rutgers University](#) in New Brunswick, NJ; the [University of South Florida Contemporary Art Museum in Tampa, FL](#) and more. Click [here](#) for the full list of locations and artists who have participated so far.



“Untitled (fear eats the soul) (white flag)” by Rirkrit Tiravanija, 2017, flies at Mass MoCA in North Adams, MA. Photo by Arden Seeley. Courtesy Mass MoCA.

In other Creative Time news, Justine Ludwig was recently named as Creative Time’s next executive director, announced the organization. Ludwig begins her position on June 15, 2018. She is currently the deputy director and chief curator at Dallas Contemporary. In addition, she has curated shows at the Contemporary Arts Center in Cincinnati, the Tuft University Art Gallery and the Museum of Modern Art in Rio de Janeiro. She succeeds Creative Time Acting Director Alyssa Nitchun who has been at the helm since Katie Hollander stepped down in June 2017.

The Museum of Arts and Design has named Christopher Scoates as its new director, announced the organization. Currently the head of Cranbrook Academy of Art and Art Museum in Michigan, he begins his new position with MAD on July 1, 2018. He succeeds Jorge Daniel Veneciano, who resigned as director over a year ago. In addition to Scoates's tenure at Cranbrook, he served as director of the University Art Museum at California State University in Long Beach and was the chief curator of the University Museum of the University of California at Santa Barbara.

The J. Paul Getty Trust is awarded the annual J. Paul Getty Metal to Thelma Golden, director and chief curator of the Studio Museum in Harlem; Agnes Gund, president emerita of the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) and sculptor Richard Serra, the organization announced. The Medal is awarded to individuals to honor their extraordinary contributions to the practice, understanding and support of the arts. This year's awards will be presented at a dinner at the Getty Center in Los Angeles on September 24, 2018.

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