



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

San Francisco Art Institute – Fort Mason

Building Tour for Media: August 23, 2017; 10am-12pm

This fall, San Francisco welcomes an exciting, new destination for arts education and public engagement on its northern waterfront as San Francisco Art Institute (SFAI) introduces the public to its stunning campus at Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture (FMCAC) in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

The 67,000 square foot renovated pier with spectacular views over the San Francisco Bay is the new home for over 160 art studios for students, faculty, and visiting artists and 3,300 square feet of new public exhibition space, open to the public and free of charge, including a flagship gallery, a graduate student-run gallery, and Grey Box media and performance space. Studio amenities include a woodshop and fabrication facility, installation and seminar rooms, digital media suite, a student lounge, and a sweeping amphitheater for public events. SFAI will join over 20 arts and culture non-profits at FMCAC, further establishing the waterfront site as one of the city's great cultural districts.

Designed by Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects (LMSA), recipients of the American Institute of Architect's 2017 Architecture Firm Award, the new site at the prow of the city represents the largest development effort by SFAI since the opening of its landmark Paffard Keatinge-Clay addition in Russian Hill in 1969. The new campus joins the historic Chestnut Street campus to radically advance SFAI's commitment to positioning artists at the center of public life in the Bay Area and globally.

"This new facility, within one of the most exciting and inspiring cultural hubs in the city, allows us to provide unprecedented access to our artists, exhibitions, and public programs and affirms the position of the San Francisco Art Institute at the forefront of arts education," says Chris Tellis, Chair of SFAI's Board of Trustees.

SFAI President Gordon Knox adds, "In a site that once served as the embarkation point for WWII's Pacific theater, artists and the community will now come together for the teaching, learning, making, and sharing of new and profound art experiences. SFAI is the sole remaining institution of higher education in the United States dedicated exclusively to contemporary art,

and now, with the finest studios anywhere in the country, we are uniquely positioned to thrive as a singular space of creative possibility where artists will invent the future.”

“In SFAI, we are adding one of the city’s oldest cultural institutions and an internationally renowned art school to Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture,” says Rich Hillis, FMCAC Executive Director. “The students, faculty, and public programming of SFAI are the perfect compliment to our existing residents and programs.”

“The transformation of the historic Pier 2 shed into the new San Francisco Art Institute – Fort Mason campus preserves the industrial integrity of this important landmark structure while creating a dynamic new hub of arts activities for Fort Mason,” states Marsha Maytum, Principal at LMSA.

Students begin moving into studio spaces August 21, 2017 and classes begin August 28, 2017. Media is invited on an exclusive tour of the building on August 23, 2017 from 10am-12pm (please RSVP to nina@sazevichpr.com). SFAI President Gordon Knox, SFAI Board Chair Chris Tellis, FMCAC Executive Director Rich Hillis, and architect Marsha Maytum will provide introductory remarks and be available for questions throughout. Press will also get an overview of upcoming public programming at the new campus including exhibitions, artist commissions, and a free weekend-long Opening Celebration November 10 & 11, 2017.

On view at the time of the press preview will be a new large-scale mural commission by alumni artist Alicia McCarthy whose work is currently on view in the 2017 SECA Award exhibition at SFMOMA. The mural is just one of a series of new public artist commissions, developed in partnership between SFAI and THE OTHER THING (a creative studio formed in 2013 as an offshoot of THE THING Quarterly), that will take place throughout the inaugural year to activate the public realm in, around, and beyond SFAI’s new building.

About San Francisco Art Institute

Founded in 1871, SFAI is one of the country's oldest and most prestigious institutions of higher education in the practice and study of contemporary art. As a diverse community of working artists and scholars, SFAI provides students with a rigorous education in the arts and preparation for a life in the arts through an immersive studio environment, an integrated liberal arts and art history curriculum, and critical engagement with the world. Committed to educating artists who will shape the future of art, culture, and society, SFAI fosters creativity and original thinking in an open, experimental, and interdisciplinary context.

SFAI offers BFA, BA, MFA, and MA degrees, a dual MA/MFA degree, a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate, and a range of exhibitions, public programs, and public education courses. Notable alumni include Aziz + Cucher, Kathryn Bigelow, Joan Brown, Enrique Chagoya, Richard Diebenkorn, Karen Finley, Howard Fried, Toba Khedoori, Paul Kos, Annie Leibovitz, Liza Lou,

Paul McCarthy, Barry McGee, Catherine Opie, Laura Poitras, Jason Rhoades, Leslie Shows, and Kehinde Wiley.

About Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture

A national pioneer in the adaptive reuse of decommissioned military and industrial installations, Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture has long been host to a lively mix of arts, educational, and cultural programming. Each year Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture provides more than \$2.5 million in support to local arts organizations, empowering artists to produce diverse and innovative artworks at its historic waterfront campus. With a nearly four-decade history as an arts and culture destination, Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture is now focused on reinvigorating its programming and amenities to better engage the evolving and dynamic Bay Area creative community.

General Information

San Francisco Art Institute – Fort Mason is free to the public and located on Pier 2 within Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture, 2 Marina Blvd., San Francisco, CA. For more information, the public may visit sfai.edu or call (415) 749-4563.

Regular public hours will be Wednesday-Saturday 12-8pm and Sunday 11am-5pm starting August 30.

The free Opening Celebration takes place Friday, November 10, 2017 from 6-9pm and Saturday, November 11, 2017 from 12-5pm and features:

- An exhibition of work by more than a dozen SFAI alumni in the new gallery
- A new large-scale mural commission by alumni artist Alicia McCarthy
- Open Studios, offering a chance to see the work of over 160 emerging artists
- A special edition of SFAI's annual Concentrate: an Uncommon Art Sale + Festival that gives visitors the opportunity to purchase student artworks and participate in a host of art-related activities at both SFAI campuses

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