

# CONTEMPORARYARTMUSEUMSTLOUIS

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## THE ANDY WARHOL FOUNDATION FOR THE VISUAL ARTS MAKES GRANT AWARD TO AREA CHIEF CURATOR

April 2009 (SAINT LOUIS, MO) – The Contemporary is pleased to announce the receipt of a Curatorial Fellowship Grant to Chief Curator Anthony Huberman from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. The grant will support the research towards an upcoming exhibition titled *For the blind man in the dark room looking for the black cat that isn't there* on view at the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis from September 11, 2009 to January 3, 2010.

"We are truly honored that our Chief Curator's work is being recognized and supported by such an important national institution," said Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis Director Paul Ha. "The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts Curatorial Fellowship Grant is such a prestigious award and we are excited for the exhibition it will help Huberman produce."

*For the blind man in the dark room looking for the black cat that isn't there* is a major group exhibition being organized by Chief Curator Anthony Huberman. It will celebrate speculation, curiosity, and learning, each a fundamental experience in the appreciation of art.

"Today, explanations are everywhere. Whether pertaining to a new technology, a political decision, or an artwork, explanations relentlessly follow more explanations," said Huberman. "The works on view in this exhibition will propose that art is not a code that needs cracking. The featured artists prefer questions to answer and chose to stay speculative—stay fascinated, stay curious, and sometimes even stay confused—and insist on the importance of things they don't understand."

*For the blind man in the dark room looking for the black cat that isn't there* will allow the museum to offer the opportunity for the public to learn about and further understand contemporary art, which is a goal at the forefront of the Contemporary's

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mission. Visitors would be explicitly invited to appreciate the value of their own curiosities and their own speculative experience with art, transforming what might be a frustrating feeling of exclusion into a liberating one.

This grant will directly support the broad scope of research and travel necessary to make this show possible. Huberman is traveling to places including Belgium, London, Berlin, Paris, Los Angeles, and New York in order to meet artists in person to discuss ideas and plan for new works. His extensive research includes not only visits with artists, but meetings with curators, writers, and philosophers in active and ongoing discussions about some of the exhibition's core concepts. The exhibition demands that Huberman reaches outside of the world of art, as he conducts research with colleagues at Princeton University and the Institute of Advanced Study to look into the archives of mathematician Kurt Gödel, as well as with colleagues rare book libraries for materials about 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century cabinets of curiosities. The exhibition's publication documents the breadth of the research and includes speculative texts and contributions selected in close collaboration with London-based writer, editor, and designer Will Holder.

Additionally, the Contemporary was a recent receipt of a grant from The Warhol Foundation, a \$100,000 award providing two years of operating support for the Contemporary's new curatorial program in both the Main Galleries and The Front Room. July marks the beginning of the second year of this award.

## ABOUT THE ANDY WARHOL FOUNDATION FOR THE VISUAL ARTS

With a mission for advancement of the visual arts, the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Arts was established in 1987 and is focused primarily on supporting work of a challenging and often experimental nature and encourages curatorial research leading to new scholarship in the field of contemporary art. The Foundation has an objective to foster innovative artistic expression and the creative process by encouraging and supporting cultural organizations that in turn, directly or indirectly, support artists and their work. The Foundation values the contribution these organizations make to artists and audiences and to society as a whole by supporting, exhibiting and interpreting a broad spectrum of contemporary artistic practice.

## ABOUT THE CONTEMPORARY

With a vision of presenting the most relevant and experimental developments in contemporary art and developing successful community partnerships, education programs and outreach initiatives, the Contemporary makes the arts available to wide and diverse audiences throughout the St. Louis metropolitan area. Founded as the Forum for Contemporary Art in 1980, the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis re-opened with a new 25,000 square-foot building in 2003. Visit the Contemporary's website at [www.camstl.org](http://www.camstl.org).