

Institute of Contemporary University Art of Pennsylvania

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NEWS RELEASE

Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania Becomes First Museum Certified by W.A.G.E.

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PHILADELPHIA, PA

Today, the Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania (ICA) announced that it will be the first museum certified by W.A.G.E. (Working Artists and the Greater Economy), a New York-based organization founded in 2008 that advocates for artists receiving fair compensation from institutions for the exhibition of their work. ICA joins a group of over 50 certified institutions since the program's launch in 2014, including the Swiss Institute, Artists Space, Locust Projects, Jacob Lawrence Gallery, as well as the museum-related organization *Open Space*, a platform run by the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art that publishes writings by curators, artists, and critics.

"ICA's commitment to artists is at the core of everything we do. Our partnership with W.A.G.E. helps to set a new standard in the museum field, one that ensures equitable environments for the artists with whom we work," said ICA Director Amy Sadao. "We're proud to be the first museum to join this diverse group of arts and culture institutions across the U.S. who are certified, and hope that it will encourage other museums to do the same."

In 2014, W.A.G.E. Certification evolved out of a need-base response to the absence of government regulation and a commitment to establishing sustainable economic relationships between artists and institutions. In 2008, when W.A.G.E. was founded, non-payment was industry standard and there was an understanding that the nonprofit sector is not capable of regulating itself. Ten years later, W.A.G.E. certified institutions are turning standards into standardization, reflecting an affirmation of art's value as a common good – one to

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GENERAL INFORMATION

ICA IS LOCATED AT:
118 SOUTH 36TH STREET AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
(215) 898-7108
WWW.ICAPHILA.ORG
FACEBOOK.COM/ICAPHILADELPHIA
@ICAPHILADELPHIA

MUSEUM HOURS

WEDNESDAY, 11AM–8PM
THURSDAY–SUNDAY, 11AM–6PM

ICA IS ALWAYS FREE. FOR ALL.

FREE ADMISSION IS COURTESY OF
AMANDA AND GLENN FUHRMAN.

which both the labor of artists and institutions contribute, and which both must collectively work to maintain.

“The decision by the Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania to become the first W.A.G.E. Certified museum is incredibly significant,” W.A.G.E. writes. “It demonstrates that a museum is capable of meeting external payment standards, and more importantly that those standards can be set by workers. In practice, it means that the ICA will pay fees according to this minimum schedule effective immediately.”

W.A.G.E. fees are calculated based on an institution’s total annual operating budget. With an annual operating budget of \$4.8M, ICA is responsible for tracking all fee payments and remain compliant by ensuring W.A.G.E. minimum standards are met for a minimum of one year.

W.A.G.E. Certification is generously supported by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the Foundation for Arts Initiatives, and The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation.

ABOUT W.A.G.E.

W.A.G.E. Certification is a national program initiated and operated by W.A.G.E. (Working Artists and the Greater Economy) that publicly recognizes those nonprofit arts organizations demonstrating a history of, and commitment to, voluntarily paying artist fees that meet W.A.G.E. minimum payment standards.

Working Artists and the Greater Economy is a New York-based activist organization founded in 2008. Its mission is to establish sustainable economic relationships between artists and the institutions that contract their labor, and to introduce mechanisms for self-regulation into the art field that collectively bring about a more equitable distribution of its economy.

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

The Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania is a non-collecting institution presenting exhibitions at the forefront of contemporary practice and culture that challenge audiences to think in new ways. The ICA is free for all to engage and connect with the art of our time. Since its founding in 1963, ICA has served as a laboratory for the new, introducing and supporting the production of urgent and important contemporary art, beginning with ICA’s inaugural show of paintings by Abstract Expressionist Clyfford Still, followed by the first museum show of works by Andy Warhol in 1965. Throughout its history, ICA has been instrumental in identifying and developing many promising artists before they attained prominence within the international art world, some of whom include—in addition to Warhol—Laurie Anderson, Richard Artschwager, Vija Celmins, Karen Kilimnik, Barry Le Va, Glenn Ligon, Robert Mapplethorpe, Agnes Martin, Pepón Osorio, Tavares Strachan, and Cy Twombly.