

Frieze London
Press Release
25 November 2015



New Curator for Frieze Projects: Raphael Gygax

Today Frieze announces that Swiss curator Raphael Gygax has been selected as the new Curator of Frieze Projects – the innovative, non-profit programme of artist commissions at Frieze London, established in 2003. Gygax, who is Curator at Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zurich, will devise the 2016 Frieze Projects, commissioning artists to realise ambitious new work at the fair. Frieze Projects and the Frieze Artist Award are supported by the LUMA Foundation.

Victoria Siddall, Director of the Frieze fairs, said: ‘The Frieze Projects programme of artist commissions has been a cornerstone of the fair since its inception in 2003. I am thrilled to welcome Raphael Gygax as the new curator of the projects for Frieze London. His diverse interests in performance, film and theatre, and his wide-ranging curatorial experience, will continue a rich tradition – begun by Polly Staple and most recently led by Nicola Lees – of commissioning exciting, ambitious, site-specific works which challenge disciplinary boundaries and contribute to the entirely unique experience of the Frieze fairs.’

Gygax said: ‘It’s an incredible opportunity for me to work with such an interesting organization that manages to stay so dynamic, curious and enlightened – and I feel honoured. I would like to use the international visibility that this platform offers to work with artists from different generations and art fields. Diversity, transformation, hospitality and otherness will be important key terms that will accompany me on this journey.’

Gygax has explored performance, dance and body politics through diverse academic and curatorial activities, including a recently completed PhD at the University of Berne. As Curator at the Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Gygax has curated solo exhibitions by Xanti Schawinsky (2015), Wu Tsang (2014), Carey Young (2013), Stephen G. Rhodes (2013), Alex Bag (2011), Spartacus Chetwynd (2007), and Cory Arcangel (2005), among others; while his group exhibitions have included ‘Sacré 101 – An Exhibition Based on ‘The Rite of Spring’ (2014) and a collaborative theatre/art project with the writer Sibylle Berg. Gygax has a longstanding relationship with Frieze, as a contributor to *frieze* and *frieze d/e* magazines, and as advisor to the *Frame*, *Focus* and *Live* sections for emerging galleries and performance at Frieze New York and Frieze London (2014–15).



Encompassing Frieze Projects, Frieze Film, Frieze Music and the Frieze Artist Award, the non-profit programme at Frieze London has commissioned new work by artists and collectives including ÅYR, Charles Atlas, Lutz Bacher, Jérôme Bel, Ryan Gander, Grizedale Arts / Yangjiang Group, Pierre Huyghe, Christian Jankowski, Agnieszka Kurant, Nick Mauss, Meredith Monk, Mike Nelson, Ken Okiishi, Laure Prouvost, Rachel Rose, Kara Walker and Cerith Wyn Evans, among many others.

With responsibility for the delivery of a high-profile commissioning programme at Frieze London, GygaX takes over from Nicola Lees, who led the Frieze Projects programme from 2013–15, and who recently curated the 31st Biennial of Graphic Arts in Ljubljana. Previous curators include Sarah McCrory, who held the position from 2009–12, Neville Wakefield (2007–8) and Polly Staple (2003–6).

GygaX also participates in the selection jury for the Frieze Artist Award, which is an international, open call application for an emerging artist to realize a major commission at Frieze London 2016 – as part of the Frieze Projects programme, under the guidance of GygaX and his team. The Frieze Artist Award is supported by the LUMA Foundation and will open for applications in December.

Frieze London will take place 5–8 October 2016 and is sponsored by Deutsche Bank for the thirteenth consecutive year.

To keep up to date on all the latest from Frieze follow @friezelondon on Twitter, @friezeartfair on Instagram and like us on Facebook.

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Notes to Editors

Raphael Gygax (born 1980) is curator at the Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst in Zurich. He studied Art History, Film and Drama Studies at the universities of Berne and Zurich. The topic of his PhD (completed in 2015) was on the use of instrumentalized bodies in contemporary art. In addition he is a freelance curator, organizing exhibitions in Zurich, Paris, London and New York. He has assumed teaching positions, including at the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK), HEAD – haute école d'art et de design Genève, or Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich. He is on the board of the Kunsthalle Stavanger, Norway and Primary Information, New York, as well on the advisory board of the Postgraduate Programme in Curating at the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK). He writes regularly for several art magazines, such as *frieze* and *frieze d/e*. From 2013–15 he was curatorial advisor for the *Frame*, *Live* and *Focus* sections of Frieze Art Fair, New York / London.

Frieze Projects: Established in 2003, Frieze Projects is a non-profit programme of artist commissions, films and music events, most recently curated by Nicola Lees and taking place annually at Frieze London. Previous curators have been: Polly Staple, Neville Wakefield and Sarah McCrory. In 2015, Frieze commissioned artists including ÅYR, Lutz Bacher, castillo/corrales, Thea Djordjadze, Jeremy Herbert and Asad Raza. Now entering its third year, the Frieze Artist Award is a major opportunity for an artist between 25–40 years of age to present ambitious, site-specific work as part of the Frieze Projects programme. The winner of the 2015 Frieze Artist Award was New York-based artist Rachel Rose.

The LUMA Foundation was established in 2004 in Switzerland to support the activities of independent artists and pioneers, as well as institutions working in the fields of art, photography, publishing, documentary and multimedia. The foundation produces and commissions challenging artistic projects combining a

particular interest in environmental issues, human rights, education and culture in the broadest sense.

The LUMA Foundation and LUMA Arles, the executive entity founded in 2014 in support of the project in Arles, are currently developing an experimental cultural centre in the Parc des Ateliers in the city of Arles, France, with a core group of artistic consultants (Tom Eccles, Liam Gillick, Hans Ulrich Obrist, Philippe Parreno, Beatrix Ruf) and the architects Frank Gehry and Annabelle Selldorf. This ambitious project envisions an interdisciplinary centre dedicated to the production of exhibitions and ideas, research, education, and archives and is supported by a growing number of public and private partnerships. The foundation's headquarters and exhibition spaces in Zurich are part of the refurbished and expanded Löwenbräukunst art complex. LUMA Westbau opened in June 2013, presenting international projects, exhibitions and events commissioned and produced by the LUMA Foundation. Currently on view: 'Imponderable: The Archives of Tony Oursler' & 89plus: Filter Bubble'. Further information: westbau.com and luma-arles.org.

Nicola Lees was the curator for Frieze Projects from 2013–15. Currently Lees is also Associate Curator at Malmö Konsthall and curator of the 31st Biennial of Graphic Arts in Ljubljana. Lees was previously Senior Curator of Public Programmes at the Serpentine Gallery (London), where she oversaw interdisciplinary, time-based and performance projects and artist commissions as well as initiating Park Nights, the Serpentine Cinemaseries, and the Serpentine Gallery Marathon (co-curated with Hans Ulrich Obrist). In 2007 Lees curated the exhibition 'Left Pop Bringing it Home' at the Second Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art. At the Irish Museum of Modern Art she worked on key solo exhibitions by Alex Katz, Mirosław Balka, and a group exhibition with Philippe Parreno. Nicola Lees lives and works in London.

Frieze London: Established in 2003 by the founders of *frieze* magazine, Matthew Slotover and Amanda Sharp, Frieze London is one of the world's leading art fairs and takes place each October in The Regent's Park, London. In 2012 Frieze established two further art fairs, Frieze New York, which takes place on Randall's Island, Manhattan each May, and Frieze Masters, which coincides with Frieze London and brings together several thousand years of art. Frieze London 2015 featured the return of *Live*, a section dedicated to performance and participation, *Focus* for emerging galleries, and the annual Frieze Projects programme curated by Nicola Lees. Frieze fairs are sponsored by Deutsche Bank.

For further information please visit frieze.com.