

- June 5, 2017

Ars Citizen



Satellite image of San Francisco Bay area, Map data ©2017 Google

Introducing Ars Citizen

After two years of intense development, we are thrilled to introduce [Ars Citizen](#).

Ars Citizen is an independent art-commissioning and curatorial platform committed to advancing the production and diffusion of contemporary art and ideas. Founded in San Francisco, a center of global influence today, Ars Citizen brings the excellence of major international artists to leaders of cultural, educational, technological and social innovation. Through collaborative partnerships, it aims to commission, produce and promote major artworks while generating relevantly conceived programming including exhibitions, lectures, debates, publications, archives, etc.

Ars Citizen values long-term commitment, networking synergy and international dialogue, and seeks to resonate with the contemporary world, its complexity and pressing challenges.

Ars Citizen is a nonprofit founded by French curator Evelyne Jouanno who has been working with the global contemporary art community for the last 20 years, particularly through the *Emergency Biennale*, a travelling project that she created with the cooperation of more than 150 international artists, cultural institutions and humanitarian NGOs around the world.

"Today the emergency situation has become permanent and globalized. Now we urgently need art and culture at the core of the influential societies for a holistic awareness. Silicon Valley has a crucial role to play in this endeavor" Jouanno explains. "Ars Citizen provides the necessary resources to contribute to a new ecology of creativity in the San Francisco Area and beyond."

The organization is co-run with Jeanne Barral and Marie Martraire. It is supported by a Board of Directors including Hou Hanru and Constance M. Lewallen, and an international Advisory Board composed of experts in the wide range of contemporary culture: Abby Chen, Tom DeCaigny, Rudolf Frieling, Betti-Sue Hertz, Hou Hanru, Emma Lavigne, Constance M. Lewallen, Franklin Sirmans, Joel Slayton, Sophie Suberville, Dr. Marie-Pierre Ulloa, and Vincent Worms.

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Coming soon:

SOPHIE CALLE: *MISSING*, A MULTI-VENUE EXHIBITION + COLLATERAL PROGRAMMING

Summer 2017- Ars Citizen initiated and curates a major exhibition of the French conceptual artist Sophie Calle to be presented by Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture on the San Francisco waterfront from June 29 to August 20, 2017. Titled *Missing*, this is the largest exhibition of the internationally acclaimed artist in the US. A series of collateral programs as partnerships between Ars Citizen and various organizations will take place across the Bay Area: Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive, FraenkelLab, City Lights Bookstore, and The Roxie Theatre.

This project has received supports from the National Endowment for the Arts, Grants for the Arts, Carla Emil and Rich Silverstein, The Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the US, The Consulate General of France in San Francisco, Fraenkel Gallery, Paula Cooper Gallery, Galerie Perrotin, Eleanor Coppola and Francis Ford Coppola Winery, and Paxton Gate.

These events mark the first milestone in a longer-term commitment undertaken by Ars Citizen with Sophie Calle in the Bay Area where the artist started her career in the late 1970's.

Other projects:

SARAH SZE: SITE-SPECIFIC PERMANENT WORK

June 2016- Ars Citizen won the international competition for St. Mary's Square Public Art Project in the Chinatown of San Francisco with the site-specific proposal *Book of Rocks* by the New York City based artist Sarah Sze. The competition was led by the Chinese Culture Center in collaboration with the developer 500 Pine Street Company, and the City of San Francisco. Unfortunately, due to late yet significant changes to the original conditions, Sarah Sze and Ars Citizen withdrew the winning proposal. Ars Citizen continues to seek new opportunities for Sze's project in the Bay Area.

FELICE VARINI: SITE-SPECIFIC WORK - RESEARCH VISIT AND PROGRAMMING

October 2016- Organized in partnership with the Exploratorium, swissnex, the Consulate General of Switzerland, and Pro Helvetia, Ars Citizen invited Paris-based Swiss artist Felice Varini to San Francisco for a research visit to explore the possibilities of creating a site-specific installation on the historic waterfront. During his visit Varini presented his work to San Francisco's art community and conducted a workshop with students from the San Francisco Art Institute. Early 2017 Varini had made a proposal.

Other artists we started to work with:

CAO FEI, EMORY DOUGLAS, PIERO GOLIA, LYNN HERSHMAN, PIERRE HUYGHE, RYOJI IKEDA, KOO JEONG-A, SHAWN MAXIMO, TOMÁS SARACENO, SISLEJ XHAFA.

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