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NEW MUSEUM ANNOUNCES MAJOR INTERNATIONAL TRIENNIAL FOR EMERGING ARTISTS

First Show, “Younger Than Jesus,” to Open in Spring 2009 on the Bowery

New York, NY....Lisa Phillips, *Toby Devan Lewis Director* of the New Museum, announced today that the institution will continue its 30-year mission of exploring new art and new ideas by launching a major triennial that will give participating artists their first museum exposure. This signature initiative will be the first recurring international exhibition in New York City devoted to emerging artists from around the world, providing an important platform for a new generation of artists who are shaping the current discourse of contemporary art and the future of global culture.

The first edition of this generational triennial, “Younger Than Jesus,” will open to the public in spring 2009, and will occupy the entire New Museum building on the Bowery. The title of this exhibition is inspired by the fact that some of the most enduring, influential, and radical changes in art and history have been carried out by young people. Focused on artists who are under the age of 33 years old, the exhibition is being organized by a team of New Museum curators including Lauren Cornell, Director of Rhizome and Adjunct Curator; Massimiliano Gioni, Director of Special Exhibitions; and Laura Hoptman, Kraus Family Senior Curator.

“As we approach the close of the first decade of the second millennium, the Museum will take stock of our new century with the first art census of a whole new generation,” Massimiliano Gioni commented. “Often referred to as the ‘Millennials’ or ‘Generation Y,’ this group, born around 1980, is populated by the first natives of a digital world. They are young enough to have been born alongside the Internet, with its impact upon every aspect of our life, but also old enough to have witnessed the collapse of the myth of globalization and the emergence of a state of international conflict and deep cultural divides. The New Museum’s triennial exhibition aspires to capture the signals of an imminent generational change, exploring how artists belonging to the same age group can develop similar interests and express similar concerns across geographies and nationalities.”

Lisa Phillips said, “While most generational exhibitions are retrospective, this one will be predictive. The work of a new generation of artists is often incomprehensible to those other than peers. Their language is beautifully foreign, and their customs not fully assimilated by the rest of us. But, new generations also reveal urgently important things the rest of us cannot yet see, anticipating the future and helping shape what is coming next. This is what makes the opportunity of such an undertaking exciting for the New Museum and so consistent with our mission.”

Participating artists will be selected through a curatorial model that is participatory and interconnected. “Younger Than Jesus” will rely upon an international network of correspondents and an information-pooling group of more than 200 curators, writers, teachers, critics, bloggers, and fellow artists worldwide. These collaborators will be invited to contribute to the public programs accompanying the exhibition, and all of their recommendations will be published in an accompanying catalogue that will serve as a “Facebook” for a new generation of artists. This unorthodox approach is intended to make the curatorial process more transparent, exposing the exhibition’s framework, and challenging the traditional institutional practice of a “single source” exhibition.

The New Museum will announce the artists to be included in “Younger Than Jesus” in late 2008.

ABOUT THE NEW MUSEUM

Founded in 1977, the New Museum is Manhattan’s only dedicated contemporary art museum and among the most respected internationally, with a curatorial program known for its global scope and adventurousness. With the inauguration of our new, state-of-the-art building on the Bowery, the New Museum is a leading destination for new art and new ideas.

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