

CREATIVETIME

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CREATIVE TIME ANNOUNCES ITS NEW CURATORIAL TEAM: NATO THOMPSON AND MARK BEASLEY

(January 12, 2007 New York, NY) The Creative Time Board of Trustees and President Anne Pasternak are pleased to announce a new curatorial team for Creative Time of Nato Thompson and Mark Beasley. Nato Thompson, currently Curator at MASS MoCA, and an acclaimed writer and activist, has been appointed as a curator and producer for Creative Time beginning March 2007. He joins Mark Beasley who arrived at Creative Time from London this winter, where he worked as an independent curator, writer and artist for the past decade. Curator & Producer Peter Eleey, who joined Creative Time in 2002 and realized some of the public art organization's most ambitious projects, has been appointed Visual Arts Curator at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis. He will assume his new position in March, at the conclusion of *Doug Aitken: sleepwalkers* that he co-curated for Creative Time with The Museum of Modern Art.

"This is an exciting moment at Creative Time, as we focus our resources to continue to produce artists' boldest and most experimental work in the public realm," stated Anne Pasternak. "The curatorial strength, relationships with artists, and excellent production skills that both Nato and Mark bring to the organization will enable Creative Time to continue realizing the ambitious projects that artists simply cannot do anywhere else," stated Anne Pasternak. The new team will focus initially on Creative Time's 33rd Anniversary Year, launching in Spring 2007 with five major projects and the release of Creative Time's first book documenting its history of presenting over 300 projects in the public realm.

"It is with both pride and sadness that we bid farewell to Peter as he expands his curatorial practice to the Walker," says Pasternak. "As an insightful and risk-taking curator, and a writer of critical aplomb, he produced exceptional programs at Creative Time." During Eleey's more than four years at the organization, he curated major projects with artists including Cai Guo-Qiang, Jenny Holzer, and Haluk Akakçe, as well as multi-artist exhibitions such as *The Dreamland Artist Club* with Steve Powers in Coney Island (2004); *The Plain of Heaven* at the High Line (2005); and *Strange Powers* with Laura Hoptman in the East Village (2006). Eleey will continue to remain involved with exhibitions he initiated and projects for the Creative Time Books imprint.

Nato Thompson has organized an impressive array of exhibitions and commissions with many of today's leading artists. He joined MASS MoCA in 2001 as Assistant Curator and was appointed Curator in 2005. During his tenure at MASS MoCA, the largest center for contemporary visual and performing arts in the United States, he produced numerous exhibitions including *The Interventionists: Art in the Social Sphere* (2004), *Becoming Animal* (2005), and *Ahistoric Occasion: Artists Making History* (2006). He is co-curating an exhibition for MASS MoCA this spring with Liz Thomas titled *The Believers*, and is a co-organizer of an installation by Christoph Buchel, now in production. He writes for

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many publications including *tema celeste*, *Art Journal*, *Cabinet* and the *Journal of Aesthetics and Protest*. His forthcoming book *Seeing Power: Art and Activism in the Age of Cultural Production* is set to be published by Autonomedia in Fall 2007. Thompson received the College Art Association Art Journal Award for Distinguished Writing in 2005. He advises several national and international arts organizations including Creative Capital, Art in General, and the Vera List Center for Art and Politics. Thompson is a graduate of UC Berkeley and received an MA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He first worked with Creative Time last fall as part of the *Who Cares* publication.

Mark Beasley has initiated some of the most unique collaborations with musicians, visual artists and performers in London before coming to the U.S. He most recently co-curated the international touring show *Electric Earth: Film and Video from Britain* for the British Council as well as a series of publications and performance events with Mark Titchner, Bonnie Camplin, Mark Leckey, Lawrence Weiner & Ned Sublette, Fabienne Audeoud & John Russell for Book Works, London. Between 2004-2005 he was the Stanley Picker Research Fellow in Fine Art at Kingston University, London and has lectured internationally on issues related to contemporary art, in addition to his numerous contributions to exhibition catalogues and journals. Forthcoming projects and publications include *ADVENTURE: Showdown at the Pig Palace*, City Projects, London and *LOUDSPEAKER: An anthology of spoken word projects*, with Matthew Higgs, White Columns, New York and Book Works, London. He is presently working with Eve Sussman and The Rufus Corporation for Creative Time's premiere of *The Rape of the Sabine Women* this February.