

ADAA Expands Relief Fund to Provide Emergency Aid To Artists in Puerto Rico

*First National Grant Awarded to Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Puerto Rico's
Artist Emergency Fund*

New York, November 30, 2017—The Art Dealers Association of America (ADAA) Relief Fund today announced its expansion beyond New York City to support arts communities affected by natural and manmade disasters across the nation. As its first national grant, the ADAA Relief Fund has donated \$15,000 to the Artist Emergency Fund (AEF), managed by Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Puerto Rico (MAC). The grant matches current funds raised by a private campaign in support of AEF's efforts to provide emergency cash grants to artists impacted by Hurricane Maria.

Formed in October 2012 in response to the devastation of Hurricane Sandy, the ADAA Relief Fund provided recovery assistance to New York galleries and non-profit arts organizations that sustained damage from the hurricane. The efforts of generous donors galvanized all sectors of the arts community, enabling the Fund to distribute 50 grants totaling \$543,500 and maintain reserve funds for future disasters. Following Hurricane Sandy, the ADAA contributed to [Resilient Art Spaces](#), a resource developed by the New York City's Department of City Planning to support the operators of arts and cultural spaces in taking preventative measures and recovering from storm damage quickly. The ADAA also hosted information sessions to discuss issues of conservation, storage, insurance, and the prevention of future damages.

“In 2012, we saw the incredible power of the arts community in coming together to support recovery efforts from Hurricane Sandy and sustain the arts organizations and galleries that are core to the cultural fabric of New York City,” said **Lucy Mitchell-Innes, President of the ADAA Relief Fund and Founder and Principal of Mitchell-Innes & Nash**. “As similar disasters impact arts communities across the nation, it is essential to expand the scope of the Relief Fund, so that artists, arts organizations, galleries, and institutions can continue to thrive and contribute to their cities and regions. With our first national grant to benefit Puerto Rico-based artists, we hope to be part of ensuring the ongoing vitality of cultural production in the area.”

Linda Blumberg, Executive Director of the ADAA, added, “The ADAA Relief Fund is a natural extension of the ADAA's mission to support galleries across the country, including their work with artists and the greater cultural community. Artists are critical to the cultural life of any city—adding to its vitality and generating new ideas—which makes them fitting recipients of the Relief Fund's first national grant, and we hope that it will help to raise awareness about the current need for support in Puerto Rico.

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Formed in 1997 to provide emergency funds to artists affected by natural disasters and life-altering circumstances, the AEF is actively surveying arts communities across the entire islands of Puerto Rico, Vieques, and Culebra, and convening artists regularly to prioritize and disburse the funds available. With the support of architect and MoMA trustee Warren James and art dealer Cristin Tierney in New York, as well as Francisco Rovira Rullán, founder of Roberto Paradise gallery in Puerto Rico, the fund was activated for the purposes of Hurricane Maria recovery. The recipients of AEF support are determined by a jury comprised of Marianne Ramirez, executive director of MAC; Ruben Mendez, chairman of the board at MAC; and Jaime Suarez, acting as an artist representative. As part of the ongoing efforts to raise funds for the AEF, Chicago-based artist José Lerma will donate 25 percent of proceeds from works sold at his upcoming exhibition, opening December 1 at Roberto Paradise gallery in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

About the ADAA Relief Fund

Formed in 2012 in response to Hurricane Sandy, the ADAA Relief Fund provides grants and loans to galleries and arts non-profits across the country that have been affected by natural and manmade disasters. In support of recovery efforts, the ADAA identifies recipients according to need, demonstrated by catastrophic damage that prohibits day-to-day and future operations, production, and programming.

About the ADAA

The Art Dealers Association of America (ADAA) is a nonprofit membership organization that supports the economic and cultural contributions of the nation's leading fine art galleries. The ADAA includes 180 members from 25 cities in the U.S., representing hundreds of established and emerging artists internationally. ADAA members have extensive expertise across primary and secondary markets, and established reputations for upholding best practices in the field. The ADAA serves as a resource and advocate, raising awareness of dealers' critical roles in the international art market and the cultural community.

The ADAA is dedicated to promoting a holistic understanding of the art market's participants and activities, and is a leader on issues pertaining to connoisseurship, scholarship, ethical practice, and public policy. The ADAA's position is further enhanced by its Appraisal Service, which has valued works of art for donation, estate, gift tax, and insurance for over 50 years and represents a depth of art historical and market knowledge. Further, the ADAA Foundation, supported by donations from ADAA members, distributes grants to arts organizations to foster appreciation of art and art history in both public and private spheres.

ADAA activity culminates annually in The Art Show, an integral part of New York City's Arts Week. Held at the historic Park Avenue Armory, in support of the Henry Street Settlement, the fair features the highest quality works from the start of the 19th

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century to the present and cultivates an intimate and engaged viewing experience. Entering its 30th year, The Art Show has become synonymous with connoisseurship and market expertise, emphasizing one-to-one connections between visitor, expert, and artwork. The coming year's edition will be held on February 28 – March 4, 2018, and the full exhibitors list is available [here](#).

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