The Vera List Center for Arts and Politics

THE NEW SCHOOL
VERA LIST CENTER
FOR ART AND POLITICS

Project author or developer:
Various

Where:
New / New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA / 100

Website:
www.veralistcenter.org

The Vera List Center for Art and Politics is an idea incubator and a public forum for art, culture, and politics.

The Vera List Center for Art and Politics was established at The New School in 1992â€"a time of rousing debates about freedom of speech, identity politics, and society's investment in the arts. A pioneer in the field, the center is a nonprofit that serves a critical mission: to foster a vibrant and diverse community of artists, scholars, and policy makers who take creative, intellectual, and political risks to bring about positive change. Since its inception, the Vera List Center has organized over 435 public events gathering artists, scholars, historians and other thinkers and makers to consider topics of broad popular relevance; developed numerous publications ranging from papers and books to interactive online artists projects; and hosted 14 fellows, working with them to develop work advancing the discourse on art and politics. The center organizes various programs that respond to some of the pressing social and political issues of our time as they are articulated by the academic community and visual and performing artists. It enhances the university's educational mission by bringing together scholars and students, the people of New York, and national and international audiences in an exploration of new possibilities for civic engagement. Biennial PrizeThe new international biennial Vera List Center Prize for Art and Politics honors an artist or group of artists who has taken risks to advance social justice in profound and visionary ways. Chicago-based artist Theaster Gates has been named the inaugural recipient of the prize, which is awarded on the basis of a particular project's long-term impact, boldness, and artistic excellence. Conceived as a unique opportunity for teaching and learning, the prize encompasses an extended engagement with the prizewinner's practice, and will lead to a publication, conference, an exhibition and curricular crossings in the fall of 2013. The prize initiative unfolds across various platforms and over an extended period of time. It serves as a catalyst for activities that illuminate the important role of the arts in society, and strengthen teaching and learning at The New School in art and design, social science, philosophy, and civic engagement. More than a single moment of recognition, it represents a long-term commitment to the question of how the arts advance social justice, how we speak of, evaluate and teach such work. An exhibition of the winning project, a conference, integration into classes, and a publication featuring select nominated projects complement a cash award and short-term New York City residency for the honoree. In the spirit of the center's twenty-year history, the prize provides the opportunity for an ongoing public conversation on art and social justice as a global issue that engages audiences in New York City, nationally and around the world

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