

ACKLANDARTMUSEUM

ACKLAND ART MUSEUM EXHIBITION RECEIVES 2013 AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

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Chapel Hill, NC – A 2013 exhibition at the Ackland Art Museum at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill was honored with an Award of Excellence by the Association of Art Museum Curators at their annual meeting in Detroit, Michigan, on May 5, 2014.

More Love: Art, Politics, and Sharing since the 1990s received the award of Honorable Mention in the category of Exhibitions by Museums with an Operating Budget under \$4 Million.

Organized for the Ackland Art Museum by consulting curator Claire Schneider, *More Love* was the first major exhibition to investigate the many ways contemporary artists have addressed the subject of love: as a political force, as a philosophical model for equitable knowledge exchange, and as social interaction within a rapidly changing landscape of technology and social media. After eight weeks at the Ackland (February 1 through March 31, 2013) the exhibition traveled to the Cheekwood Museum of Art in Nashville, Tennessee, where it was on view from September 20, 2013 through January 5, 2014.



“We at the Ackland are delighted that our professional colleagues have recognized the outstanding quality and national importance of this major exhibition,” said Ackland Chief Curator Peter Nisbet. “The Ackland is committed to an ambitious contemporary art program that offers searching and stimulating encounters with the best art of our time. *More Love* exemplified this in a powerful way.”

Visitors experienced *More Love* through works of art by 33 emerging and established contemporary artists for whom love is a central preoccupation. From Jim Hodges’ large-scale curtain of silk flower petals to Julianne Swartz’s site-specific sound installations, from sculptural pieces by Janine Antoni and Louise Bourgeois to video work by Mona Hatoum, Tad Hozumi, Frances Stark, and others, the art in *More Love* invited, enacted, and reflected on multiple modes of expression, among them gifts, touch, acts of service, and language.

Nearly 13,000 visitors came to see *More Love* or attend one of its related programs during its eight-week run at the Ackland. Over 10,000 instances of visitors engaging with works in the exhibition were recorded; possible interactions included taking a button from *Love for Love* by Gregory Sale and visitors having their photograph taken for Yoko Ono’s *Time to Tell Your Love*. Over 20,000 people from 130 countries accessed *No Time for Love*, a website-based artwork created for the exhibition by artist Chris Barr. Off site, Felix Gonzalez-Torres’ “*Untitled*” (1991) was presented as a series of six billboards in the Triangle area that had exposure to a combined total of approximately 137,800 vehicles daily.

The Ackland has subsequently acquired two works from the exhibition: a selection of Sale’s *Love for Love* buttons, given to the Museum by friends of the Ackland, and *Untitled (Filling Up Time)*, a 2012 painting by Chris Johanson.

More Love was accompanied by a fully-illustrated, 240-page catalog including essays by Claire Schneider, Jonathan Katz, Shannon Jackson, and Dario Robleto, among others.

“It’s wonderful to be recognized by my curatorial peers from around the country,” said *More Love* consulting curator Claire Schneider. “I’m especially grateful that this award shines a national spotlight on the Ackland and our combined efforts to realize such an ambitious project. *More Love* brought together so many wonderful people to create a profound and moving exhibition that actively engaged the public.”

The 2013 Awards of Excellence were formally announced at the annual AAMC Conference on May 5, 2014 at the Detroit Institute of Arts. “We were impressed by the quality and depth of the nominations,” said Judith Pineiro, Executive Director of the Association of Art Museum Curators. A full listing of awardees is available at www.artcurators.org.

The Association of Art Museum Curators has a membership of over 1,200 curators from across the United States and Canada. The mission of the Association is to support and promote the work of museum curators by creating opportunities for networking, collaboration, professional development, and advancement. In support of these aims, the AAMC Foundation seeks to heighten public understanding of the curator's role in art museums through professional development programs, awards, and grants.

More Love was made possible by the James Keith Brown and Eric Diefenbach Fund for Contemporary Art, Art Mentor Foundation Lucerne, NC Arts Council (with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts), The Seymour and Carol Levin Foundation, and the William Hayes Ackland Trust.



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About the Ackland

The Ackland Art Museum is located on the historic campus of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The Ackland’s holdings consist of more than 17,000 works of art, featuring significant collections of European masterworks, twentieth-century and contemporary art, African art, North Carolina pottery, and folk art. In addition, the Ackland has North Carolina’s premier collections of Asian art and works on paper (drawings, prints, and photographs). As an academic unit of the University, the Ackland serves broad local, state, and national constituencies.

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Tracey Emin, British, born 1963: *More Love*, 2010; neon. 18-1/8 x 47-1/4 inches. Edition of 3. © Tracey Emin, Courtesy the artist and Lehmann Maupin Gallery, New York and Hong Kong.