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ARTTABLE TO CELEBRATE VISIONARY LEADERS WITH DSVa AND NLA AWARD

ArtTable's 2022 Annual Benefit honors Carol Cole Levin and Dr. Nicole Fleetwood on April 8, 2022

New York, NY [January 19, 2022] - ArtTable is pleased to announce the recipient of this year's Distinguished Service to the Visual Arts (DSVA) award is Organizer, Curator, and Artist Carol Cole Levin. In recognition of a lifetime achievement of leading professional women in the arts, Carol Cole Levin will accept this award at the Annual Benefit and Award Ceremony on April 8, 2022 at Capitale in New York City. This year's New Leadership Award (NLA) will be given to Dr. Nicole R. Fleetwood in recognition of her immensely powerful academic and curatorial work in collecting and unpacking work from incarcerated artists. Dr. Fleetwood's enterprising developments on "carceral aesthetics" have yielded timely and necessary reflection in contemporary arts, making her a deserving recipient of this year's NLA award.

ArtTable members, sponsors, friends, families, and colleagues of this year's recipients will gather to celebrate the inspirational achievements of these two impactful women. With close regard to Covid regulations and restrictions, the organization will be safely gathering for its first in-person benefit in two years. Per New York State guidelines for indoor dining, attendees must provide proof of vaccination in order to attend.

This year's DSVa recipient, Carol Cole Levin, will travel from Greensboro, NC, where she currently resides and is actively involved in the contemporary art community. With an imaginative artistic career, a devotion to her unique collection, and the curation of engaging and provocative exhibitions, Cole has played a quintessential role in supporting dynamic female arts for the last four decades. She is a vital leader in Greensboro's (and North Carolina's) growing art communities as a supporter of the Weatherspoon Arts Museum, Elsewhere Museum, and the Ackland Art Museum at UNC-Chapel Hill, amongst others. Her multidisciplinary efforts and lifetime of influential work in the arts have earned her this prestigious title.

ArtTable's NLA is given each year to a woman who has demonstrated leadership through an array of professional accomplishments that have made an impact in the visual arts field early in her career. In addition to her well-established and long academic career, Dr. Nicole R. Fleetwood's considerable influence as an arts organizer over the last decade has been tremendous. Most recently, Dr. Fleetwood combined art critique and curation as a platform to discuss the prevailing injustice of America's industrial prison complex. Highlighting the work of incarcerated artists in her homonymous traveling exhibition and book, "Marking Time: Art in the Age of Mass Incarceration", Dr. Fleetwood's canonical vision has prompted an essential transition of educational accountability for arts institutions. As a visionary female leader in the arts, ArtTable is proud to present 2022's New Leadership Award to Dr. Nicole R. Fleetwood.

To support these women in their achievements, attend ArtTable's Annual Benefit and Award Ceremony. This is a ticketed event that will be open to the public. Tickets to the luncheon can be purchased on the ArtTable website and are partially-tax deductible. Attendance of this event supports ArtTable's mission of advancing the leadership of women in the visual arts and fostering a stronger future for the next generation of female leaders.

2022 Distinguished Service to the Visual Arts Award



Carol Cole Levin is an artist, entrepreneur, philanthropist, collector, and tireless champion of groundbreaking women artists. Born Carol Cole in 1943 in Philadelphia, Mississippi, Carol now lives and works in Greensboro, North Carolina, where she is actively involved in the contemporary art community. She moved to Greensboro in 1984, as a single mother, where she met her late husband, Seymour Levin, in 1986, marrying in 1988. At his request, she has used her maiden name for her art, but added his name, giving him credit, for her philanthropy and collecting, because he made that possible. With Seymour taking care of living expenses, she could use the money from the sale of her computer software business to buy art.

A lifetime member and past President of the Advisory Board of The Weatherspoon Art Museum at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Carol has been instrumental in growing the Museum's collection, particularly of women artists. Along with her late husband, Carol has supported numerous leading-edge

exhibitions at the Weatherspoon, from *Hannah Wilke: Intra-Venus* in 1996 to the upcoming presentation of *Lorraine O'Grady: Both/And*. Artist Nancy Grossman has stated that her "voice was central in tipping the scales for what were considered controversial shows at the Weatherspoon."

Carol Cole Levin has supported exhibitions of artists in her collection at the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, the Jewish Museum in NYC, the Baltimore Museum of Art, Grounds for Sculpture, and the Institute of Contemporary Art, LA, amongst others. She is always willing to loan works from the collection.

Carol and Seymour have donated to Greensboro's Elsewhere Museum, a living museum that supports artists in a reimagined thrift store space; the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; the Weatherspoon Art Museum, amongst other organizations. Carol currently serves on the National Advisory Board of the Ackland Art Museum at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She has served on many nonprofit boards, including the governing boards of ArtTable, the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA) in Winston-Salem, NC, and the Penland School of Crafts in Penland, NC; the cabinet of Elsewhere Museum; and the National Advisory Board of the Lucy Daniels Foundation in Cary, NC.

Carol's artistic career spans over forty years. Her surreal drawings from the 1970s and her later mixed-media breast sculptures are charged with a feminist critique derived from her life experiences.

In the spring of 2018, Carol had a solo show at the Weatherspoon Art Museum titled *Carol Cole: Cast a Clear Light*, based on the quotation of Tennessee Williams, "Let us not deny all the dark things of the human heart, but let us try to cast a clear light on them in our work." The exhibition included 24 of her own works and 62 works from her collection of other artists. In the fall of 2018, Carol had her first solo show in New York at Empirical Nonsense, titled *Carol Cole's The Bubble Blower*, named after her autobiographical drawings from the 1970s of a breast that inverted its nipple and became a bubble blower. In 2016, Carol showed her work at the Greensboro College art gallery in an exhibition titled *Carol Cole: Me and Tennessee*, based on her relationship with the plays and writings of Tennessee Williams.

Carol holds a BA from the University of Mississippi in 1964, triple majoring in Latin, English literature, and mathematics. Later, she turned to art and studied with notable artists including Lynda Benglis, Judy Chicago, Elizabeth Murray, Philip Pearlstein, and Ida Kohlmeyer. She lives surrounded by the works of other artists, sharing their souls and spirits, in her art collection.

ArtTable's Distinguished Service in the Visual Arts Award acknowledges and celebrates remarkable leadership in the arts. Its recipients exemplify ArtTable's dedication to the lasting impact of the visual arts on our shared cultural life. Past recipients include Barbara Tober, Susan Unterberg, Estrellita Brodsky, Marian Goodman, Lowery Stokes Sims, Marieluise Hessel, Raymond Learsy and Melva Bucksbaum, Marguerite Steed Hoffman, Patricia Phelps de Cisneros, Patricia E. Harris, Marieluise Hessel Artzt, Kathan Brown, Mary Schmidt Campbell, Anita Contini, Alice Denney, Helen W. Drutt English, Elizabeth Easton, Sharon Helgason Gallagher, RoseLee Goldberg, Thelma Golden, Marian Goodman, Kathy Halbreich, Lila Harnett, Ann Sutherland Harris, Alana Heiss, Mary Jane Jacob, Leslie King-Hammond, Ruby Lerner, Susana Torruella Leval, Barbara Luderowski, Margo Machida, Ann Philbin, Lisa Phillips, Joan Rosenbaum, Linda Shearer, Roberta Smith, Susan Sollins, Susan Fisher Sterling, Marion Boulton Stroud, Paula Wallace, Yoko Ono, Toby Devan Lewis, Vishakha N. Desai, Elizabeth A. Sackler, Elizabeth C. Baker, Linda Nochlin, Iris Cantor, Paula Cooper, Marcia Tucker, Lucy Lippard, Stephanie French, Joan Mondale, Dianne H. Pilgrim, Emily Rauh Pulitzer, Agnes Gund, and Kitty Carlisle Hart.

In 2003, as a special gesture to ArtTable and the leading women it honors, Louise Bourgeois created an unnumbered, cast bronze edition to represent the award for Distinguished Service to the Visual Arts. EYE (cast bronze and silver nitrate with a polished patina) is cast each year in commendation to our awardee.

2022 New Leadership Award



Dr. Nicole R. Fleetwood is a writer, curator, and the inaugural James Weldon Johnson Professor of Media, Culture, and Communication at NYU. She is a 2021 MacArthur Fellow and the author of *Marking Time: Art in the Age of Mass Incarceration* (2020), winner of the National Book Critics Award in Criticism, the John Hope Franklin Publication Prize of the American Studies Association, the Susanne M. Glasscock Humanities Book Prize for Interdisciplinary Scholarship, and both the Charles Rufus Morey Book Award in art history and the Frank Jewett Mather Award in art criticism from the College Art Association. She is also curator of the touring exhibition *Marking Time*, which debuted at MoMA PS1 in September 2020. Her other books are *On Racial Icons: Blackness and the Public Imagination* (2015) and *Troubling Vision: Performance, Visuality, and Blackness* (2011). She is also co-editor of *Aperture* magazine's

"Prison Nation" issue, focusing on photography's role in documenting mass incarceration, and co-curator of *Aperture*'s touring exhibition of the same name. Fleetwood has co/curated exhibitions and programs on art and mass incarceration at the Abrams-Engel Institute for the Visual Arts, the Andrew Freedman Home, *Aperture* Foundation, Cleveland Public Library, Eastern State Penitentiary, MoMA PS1, Mural Arts Philadelphia, the Zimmerli Art Museum, and Worth Rises. Her work has been supported by the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Center, NYPL's Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers, ACLS, Whiting Foundation, the Art for Justice Fund, Denniston Hill Residency, Schomburg Center for Scholars-in-Residence, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the NEH.

ArtTable's New Leadership Award recognizes an emerging professional who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and made considerable contributions to the visual art field in the earlier stages of their careers. This award was first introduced as part of ArtTable's 25th anniversary celebration in 2005. Past awardees include La Tanya S. Autry, Wassan Al-Khudhairi, Erin Christovale, Lauren Haynes, Jami Powell, Alexandra Chang, Naima J. Keith, Lauren Cornell, Sara Raza, Naomi Beckwith, Amy Sadao, Sarah Douglas, Cecilia Alemani, Shamim Momin and Christine Y. Kim, Sarah Elizabeth Lewis, Andrea Barnwell, Melissa Chiu, Fairfax Dorn and Virginia Lebermann, Ellen Haddigan, Bronwyn Keenan, Sheri L. Pasquarella, Maura Reilly, Natasha Schlesinger, Laura Hoptman, Marysol Nieves, Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn, and Olga Viso. This year's award is *Seven Square Inches of Water*, a limited-edition artwork by Maya Lin created to benefit the "What Is Missing?" project.

ArtTable's Annual Benefit & Award Ceremony

The April event is a signature annual benefit and award ceremony celebrating the contributions and accomplishments of exemplary professional women in the visual arts. Members and supporters from all over the country gather for a vibrant afternoon devoted to ArtTable's mission to advance the leadership of women in the arts—a mandate as pressing as ever.

The 2022 event will include a luncheon, address from the awardees, a keynote speaker, and a networking event to promote connections - old and new - following an organizational hiatus from in-person programming.

For **tickets, sponsorship, and additional information**, please visit

<https://arttable.org/event/arttable-2022-annual-benefit-and-award-ceremony/>.

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