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The Hermitage Artist Retreat

**Announces New Members of National Curatorial Council:
Sanford Biggers, Cathy Park Hong, Rajiv Joseph, Du Yun**

Each year, the organization's esteemed Curatorial Council selects artists of extraordinary ability across multiple disciplines for Hermitage Fellowships. The Hermitage Curatorial Council is comprised of visionary leaders connected to some of the most renowned cultural institutions in the world.

(August 12, 2022) The Hermitage Artist Retreat recently announced its 2022-2023 Curatorial Council, comprised of distinguished national arts leaders spanning the fields of theater, music, visual art, literature, and arts education. The newest additions to the Council include award-winning visual and multimedia artist **Sanford Biggers**, *New York Times* bestselling author **Cathy Park Hong**, Pulitzer Prize-nominated playwright **Rajiv Joseph**, and Pulitzer Prize-winning composer **Du Yun**. Sanford Biggers and Du Yun are also both Hermitage alumni, with Biggers winning the Hermitage Greenfield Prize in 2010 – the first awarded in the discipline of visual art, (*Full bios below.*)

The full National Curatorial Council for the 2022-2023 season, comprised of thirteen accomplished and diverse nominating members from across the country, includes:

- **Sanford Biggers*** (visual art), Celebrated Visual and Multimedia Artist, Guggenheim Fellow, Hermitage Greenfield Prize Winner

- **Eric Booth** (arts education), International Arts Learning Consultant with Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, LA Philharmonic, Juilliard, and more
- **Christopher Burney** (theater and film), Artistic Director of New York Stage and Film
- **Daniel Byers** (visual art), Director of the Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts at Harvard University
- **Claire Chase** (music) Flutist, Avery Fisher Prize Winner, and MacArthur ‘Genius’ Fellow
- **Jennifer Clement** (literature), President, PEN International
- **Kimberly Drew** (visual art), Writer, Independent Curator, and Art Influencer
- **Nataki Garrett** (theater), Artistic Director of Oregon Shakespeare Festival
- **Cathy Park Hong*** (literature), Award-Winning Author and *Time’s* “100 Most Influential People of 2021”
- **Rajiv Joseph*** (theater), Award-Winning Playwright and Screenwriter; Member of Steppenwolf Theater, Chicago
- **Mitchell Jackson** (literature), Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author
- **Terrance McKnight** (music) Evening Host of WNYC/WQXR Radio
- **Du Yun*** (music), Pulitzer Prize-Winning and Grammy Award-Nominated Composer

**New to the Council as of 2022*

“We are honored to welcome these visionary leaders to the Hermitage Curatorial Council,” says **Andy Sandberg**, Artistic Director and CEO of the Hermitage. “Sanford Biggers, Cathy Park Hong, Rajiv Joseph, and Du Yun are forward-thinking creative minds with a finger on the pulse, each highly regarded for their unique contributions to their respective fields. The members of this esteemed Curatorial Council share a collective passion for the development and creation of new work from bold and diverse voices, and we are incredibly fortunate to have them in the Hermitage family. With their breadth of experience, their vast networks, and their insightful ability to identify extraordinary talent, we know that the selection of our Fellows could not be in better hands.”

Sanford Biggers was awarded the Hermitage Greenfield Prize in 2010. His work is an interplay of narrative, perspective, and history that speaks to current social, political, and economic happenings while also examining the contexts that bore them. His diverse practice positions him as a collaborator with the past through explorations of often-overlooked cultural and political narratives from American history. Appointed the 2021-2022 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Visiting Professor and Scholar in the MIT Department of Architecture, he is also a 2020 Guggenheim Fellow, a recipient of the Rome Prize in Visual Art, and the 2018 American Academy of Arts and Letters Award.

Cathy Park Hong's *New York Times* bestselling book of creative nonfiction, *Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning*, was a Pulitzer Prize finalist, won the National Book Critics Circle Award for autobiography, and earned her recognition on *TIME's* "100 Most Influential People of 2021" list. She is also the author of poetry collections *Engine Empire*; *Dance Dance Revolution*, chosen by Adrienne Rich for the Barnard Women Poets Prize; and *Translating Mo'um*. Hong is the recipient of the Windham-Campbell Prize, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship. She is a full professor at Rutgers-Newark University.

Rajiv Joseph's play *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo* was a 2010 Pulitzer Prize finalist for Drama and also awarded a grant for Outstanding New American Play by the National Endowment for the Arts. He has twice won the Obie Award for Best New American Play, first in 2016 with *Guards at the Taj* (also a 2016 Lortel Winner for Best Play) and in 2021 for *Describe the Night*. Other plays include *Archduke*, *Gruesome Playground Injuries*, *Animals Out of Paper*, *The Lake Effect*, *The North Pool*, *Mr. Wolf*, and *King James*. He is also a member of Steppenwolf Theater in Chicago.

Du Yun was born and raised in Shanghai, China, and works at the intersection of opera, orchestral, theater, cabaret, musical, oral tradition, public performances, electronics, visual arts, and noise. Known for her "relentless originality and unflinching social conscience" (*The New Yorker*), Du Yun's second opera, *Angel's Bone* (libretto by Royce Vavrek), won the 2017 Pulitzer Prize in Music. She was nominated for a Grammy Award in the Best Classical Composition category for her work *Air Glow*. Her collaborative opera *Sweet Land* with Raven Chacon (for opera

company The Industry) was named the 2021 Best New Opera by the North America Critics Association. Du Yun is a past Hermitage Fellow.

Members of the Curatorial Council are experts in their disciplines and connected to some of the world's most renowned artists and cultural institutions. Each year, the Council selects artists of extraordinary ability who are already making an impact in their field – artists who are eager to continue developing bold and impactful new works, and who may benefit creatively from a distinguished Hermitage Fellowship. **Since national and international Hermitage residencies are curated, there is no application; neither the Hermitage staff nor members of the Curatorial Council can accept applications or solicitations. However, Sarasota County artists and Florida public school teaching artists can find information on how to apply to select programs (John Ringling Towers Fellowships and Hermitage STARs) through the Hermitage website.*

The Hermitage hosts artists on its Gulf Coast Manasota Key campus for multi-week residencies, where diverse and accomplished artists from around the world and across multiple disciplines create and develop new works of visual art, theater, music, literature, dance, and more. As part of their residencies, Hermitage Fellows participate in free community programs, offering audiences throughout the Gulf Coast region a unique opportunity to engage with some of the world's leading artists and to get an authentic “sneak peek” into extraordinary projects and artistic minds before their works go on to major galleries, concert halls, theaters, and museums around the world. These free and innovative programs include performances, lectures, interactive experiences, readings, open studios, school programs, teacher workshops, and more, serving thousands in our regional community each year. Past Hermitage Fellows have included fifteen Pulitzer Prize winners, MacArthur “Genius” Fellows, Poets Laureate, National Book Award recipients, and multiple Tony, Grammy, Oscar, and Emmy Award nominees and winners.

*For more information about the Hermitage and upcoming programs, visit **HermitageArtistRetreat.org**.*

**FULL BIOS
FOR NEW MEMBERS OF HERMITAGE CURATORIAL COUNCIL**

Sanford Biggers

Winner of the 2010 Hermitage Greenfield Prize, Sanford Biggers' work is an interplay of narrative, perspective, and history that speaks to current social, political, and economic happenings while also examining the contexts that bore them. His diverse practice positions him as a collaborator with the past through explorations of often-overlooked cultural and political narratives from American history. Working with antique quilts that echo rumors of their use as signposts on the Underground Railroad, he engages these legends and contributes to this narrative by drawing and painting directly onto them. In his *BAM* series, Biggers seeks to memorialize and honor victims of police violence in the U.S., pointing towards recent transgressions and elevating the stories of specific individuals to combat historical amnesia. This series is composed of fragments of wooden African statues that are dipped and veiled with thick wax and then ballistically 'resculpted.' Biggers then cast the remnants into bronze, a historically noble and weighty medium. Each sculpture is named and dedicated after unarmed victims who have died at the hands of law enforcement. Following a residency as a 2017 American Academy Fellow in Rome, Biggers began working in marble. Drawing on and playing with the tradition of working in this medium, his series entitled *Chimeras* creates hybridized forms that transpose, combine and juxtapose classical and historical subjects to create alternative meanings and produce what he calls "future ethnographies." As creative director and keyboardist, he fronts *Moon Medicin*, a multimedia concept band that straddles visual arts and music with performances staged against a backdrop of curated sound effects and video. *Moon Medicin* performed at Open Spaces Kansas City in October 2018 and at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. in April 2019. SanfordBiggers.com

Cathy Park Hong

Cathy Park Hong's *New York Times* bestselling book of creative nonfiction, *Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning*, was published in Spring 2020 by One World/Random House and Profile Books (UK). *Minor Feelings* was a Pulitzer Prize finalist, won the National Book Critics Circle Award for autobiography, and earned her recognition on *TIME*'s "100 Most Influential People of 2021" list. She is also the author of poetry collections *Engine Empire*, published in 2012 by W.W. Norton, *Dance Dance Revolution*, chosen by Adrienne Rich for the Barnard Women Poets Prize, and *Translating Mo'um*. Hong is the recipient of the Windham-Campbell Prize, the Guggenheim Fellowship, and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship. Her prose and poetry have been published in *the New York Times*, *New Republic*, *the Guardian*, *Paris Review*, *Poetry*, and elsewhere. She is a full professor at Rutgers-Newark University. CathyParkHong.com

Rajiv Joseph

Rajiv Joseph's play *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo* was a 2010 Pulitzer Prize finalist for Drama and also awarded a grant for Outstanding New American Play by the National Endowment for the Arts. He has twice won the Obie Award for Best New American Play, first in 2016 with *Guards at the Taj* (also a 2016 Lortel Winner for Best Play) and in 2021 for *Describe the Night*. Other plays include *Archduke*, *Gruesome Playground Injuries*, *Animals Out of Paper*, *The Lake Effect*, *The North Pool*, *Mr. Wolf* and *King James*. Joseph has been awarded artistic grants from the Whiting Foundation, United States Artists, and the Harold & Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust. He has served as a board member of the Lark Play Development Center in New York City. He is currently an ensemble member at Steppenwolf Theater in Chicago, served for three years in the Peace Corps in Senegal, and now lives in Brooklyn, New York.

Du Yun

Hermitage Fellow and Pulitzer Prize Winner Du Yun was born and raised in Shanghai, China, and works at the intersection of opera, orchestral, theater, cabaret, musical, oral tradition, public performances, electronics, visual arts, and noise. Known for her "relentless originality and unflinching social conscience" (*The New Yorker*), Du Yun's second opera, *Angel's Bone* (libretto by Royce Vavrek), won the 2017 Pulitzer Prize in Music. She was nominated for a Grammy Award in the Best Classical Composition category for her work *Air Glow*. Her collaborative opera *Sweet Land* with Raven Chacon (for opera company The Industry) was named the 2021 Best New Opera by the North America Critics Association. Four of her feature studio albums were named *The New Yorker's* Notable Recordings of the Year, in 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021, respectively. A community champion, Du Yun was a founding member of the International Contemporary Ensemble; served as the Artistic Director of MATA Festival (2014-2018); conceived the Pan Asia Sounding Festival (National Sawdust); and founded FutureTradition, a global initiative that illuminates the provenance lineages of folk art and uses these structures to build cross-regional collaborations from the ground up. Du Yun was named one of 38 Great Immigrants by the Carnegie Foundation (2018), "Artist of the Year" by the Beijing Music Festival (2019). In 2022, she was granted a Creative Capital Award and Asia Society Hong Kong has honored her for her continued contribution in the performing arts field. Other notable awards include Guggenheim, American Academy Berlin Prize, Fromm Foundation, Foundation for Contemporary Arts. As an avid performer and bandleader (Ok Miss), her onstage persona has been described by the *New York Times* as "an indie pop diva with an avant-garde edge." Du Yun is Professor of Composition at the Peabody Institute, and Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. ChannelDuYun.com

About the Hermitage Artist Retreat:

The Hermitage is a non-profit artist retreat located in Manasota Key, Florida, inviting accomplished artists across multiple disciplines for residencies on its beachfront campus, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Hermitage artists are invited to interact with the local community, reaching thousands of Gulf Coast residents and visitors each year with unique and inspiring programs. Hermitage Fellows have included 15 Pulitzer Prize winners, Poets Laureate, MacArthur 'Genius' Fellows, and multiple Tony, Emmy, Grammy, Oscar winners and nominees. Works created at this beachside retreat by a diverse group of Hermitage alumni have gone on to renowned theaters, concert halls, and galleries throughout the world. Each year, the Hermitage awards the \$30,000 Hermitage Greenfield Prize for a new work of art, the newly announced \$35,000 Hermitage Major Theater Award for an original theater commission, and the Aspen Music Festival's Hermitage Prize in Composition.

For more information, visit HermitageArtistRetreat.org.

The Hermitage is supported by:

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