

FRIEZE NEW YORK

Press Release

Precious Okoyomon Wins 2021 Frieze Artist Award at Frieze New York

New York, US (February 25, 2021) – New York-based artist Precious Okoyomon is the winner of the 2021 Frieze Artist Award. Supported by the Luma Foundation, the award presents a major opportunity for an emerging artist to debut an ambitious new commission at Frieze New York. Launched in 2018, the initiative furthers the established program of Artist Award commissions at Frieze London. Previous recipients of the award at Frieze New York include Lauren Halsey and Kapwani Kiwanga.

This year, Frieze New York will take place for the first time at The Shed in Manhattan, from May 5 – 9, 2021. The fair is supported by global lead partner Deutsche Bank, continuing a shared commitment to artistic excellence.

Okoyomon's commission was selected by a jury chaired by **Jenny Schlenzka** (Executive Artistic Director at Performance Space New York), and featuring **Ralph Lemon** (Artistic Director, Cross Performance), **Vassilis Oikonomopoulos** (Senior Curator, Luma Arles), and **Stuart Comer** (Chief Curator of Media and Performance Art, MOMA).

Loring Randolph, Director of Programming for Frieze New York said:

'In recent years, the Frieze Artist Award in New York and Luma Foundation have debuted significant large-scale sculptures by leading international artists. In 2021, we could not be more excited to work with an exceptional New Yorker, Precious Okoyomon on realizing their live project in collaboration with The Shed. It has been hugely beneficial to work with Jenny Schlenzka of Performance Space, a leading institution moving boundaries in New York, and our expert jury who are the world's tastemakers in performance art amongst much more.'

Jenny Schlenzka, Executive Artistic Director at Performance Space New York added:

'The jury is proud to present Precious Okoyomon with the Frieze Artist Award. Simultaneously playful and critically inquisitive, this singular artist-poet's work highlights the inevitability of change, decay, death, and rebirth. By extending poetry into the organic world, Okoyomon reminds us that apocalypse and utopia coexist and always have.'

For Frieze New York 2021, Okoyomon will present a performance-activated installation conceived specifically for The Shed. Extending their practice, Okoyomon's work will aim to create what the artist describes as 'a portal for a space of fragilization.' Convening poetry, sensory elements, sculpture, light, and sound, the work will celebrate self-expression and champion the value of shared, collective experience. The performance will be filmed and streamed online at Frieze.com from May 5 onwards, allowing audiences across the globe to engage with the project.

The Frieze New York commission will coincide with Okoyomon's exhibition, *FRAGMENTED BODY PERCEPTIONS AS HIGHER VIBRATION FREQUENCIES TO GOD*, an installation that uses Kudzu ash, water, algae, moss, stone to transform Performance Space New York into a site for grief, mourning, and catharsis, from March 20 through to May 9, 2021. In addition, they will debut a major commission at The Aspen Art Museum (AAM), from June 2021 through to October 2022.

Precious Okoyomon is a poet, chef and artist living in New York City. They make portals into new worlds. Okoyomon has had institutional solo exhibitions at the Luma Westbau in Zurich (2018), and at the MMK in Frankfurt (2020), major performances commissioned by the Serpentine Galleries, London (2019) and the Institute of Contemporary Art, London (2019), and was an artist-in-residence at Luma Arles (2020). Okoyomon's second book, *But Did U Die?*, is forthcoming from The Serpentine Galleries/Wonder Press in 2021.

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FURTHER INFORMATION

To keep up to date on all the latest news from Frieze, sign up to our newsletter at [frieze.com](https://www.frieze.com), and follow [@friezeofficial](https://www.instagram.com/friezeofficial) on Instagram, [Twitter](https://twitter.com/friezeofficial) and [Frieze Official](https://www.facebook.com/friezeofficial) on Facebook.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Stuart Comer is The Lonti Ebers Chief Curator of Media and Performance at The Museum of Modern Art. He oversees the collection and diverse program of exhibitions, events, and acquisitions for the Department of Media and Performance. He also leads The Marie-Josée and Henry Kravis Studio, the Museum's new space dedicated to performance, music, sound, spoken word, and expanded approaches to the moving image. Mr. Comer was co-curator of the Whitney Museum of American Art's 2014 Biennial, and from 2004-2013 served as the first Curator of Film at Tate Modern, London, where he oversaw film and video work for the Tate Collection and Displays and co-curated the opening program of the Tanks at Tate Modern.

Ralph Lemon is a choreographer, writer, and visual artist. Lemon was a 2013-14 Annenberg Fellow at The Museum of Modern Art, and was named a MacArthur Fellow in 2020.

Loring Randolph is the Director of Programming for Frieze New York and the Director of the Nancy A. Nasher and David J. Haemisegger Collection. She launched Frieze Sculpture in 2019 at Rockefeller Center and the Frieze Viewing Room in 2020, as the Director of Frieze New York. Previously she worked with Casey Kaplan as the partner of the eponymous gallery where she gained expertise in creating world-class, rigorous and critically acclaimed programming and artist's exhibitions. She lives and works in New York.

Jenny Schlenzka has been Performance Space New York's Executive Artistic Director since 2017. Prior to joining Performance Space, Schlenzka was the Associate Curator at MoMA PS1 in New York. Between 2008 and 2012, Schlenzka was the Assistant Curator for Performance in the Department of Media and Performance Art at The Museum of Modern Art. She holds an MA in Cultural Studies from Humboldt University, Berlin. In 2012, she received the Yoko Ono Courage Award.

Vassilis Oikonomopoulos is Senior Curator at Luma Arles. Prior to Luma Vassilis, was the Assistant Curator, Collections of International Art at Tate Modern. He worked with Tate's Middle East and North Africa Acquisitions Committee on formulating Tate's strategy in the region. At Tate Modern he has co-curated the retrospective exhibition Alexander Calder: Performing Sculpture and also organised the 2016 Hyundai Commission Anywhen, with French artist Philippe Parreno in the Turbine Hall.

Frieze is the world's leading platform for modern and contemporary art for scholars, connoisseurs, collectors, and the general public alike. Frieze comprises three magazines – *frieze*, *Frieze Masters Magazine* and *Frieze Week* – and four international art fairs – Frieze London, Frieze Masters, Frieze New York and Frieze Los Angeles. In 2016, Frieze entered into a strategic partnership with Endeavor, a global entertainment, sports and content company.

Endeavor is a global entertainment, sports and content company, home to the world's most dynamic and engaging storytellers, brands, live events and experiences. The company is comprised of industry leaders including entertainment agency WME; sports, fashion, events and media company IMG; and premier mixed martial arts organization UFC. The Endeavor network specializes in talent representation; marketing and licensing; content development, distribution and sales; event management; and a number of direct-to-consumer offerings.

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Luma Foundation, supporter of the Frieze Artist Award:

The Luma Foundation was established by Maja Hoffmann in Switzerland in 2004 and focuses on the direct relations between art, culture, human rights, environmental topics, education and research.

The Luma Foundation's current focus is to create a truly experimental cultural complex in Arles (South of France) - Luma Arles - dedicated to providing artists with opportunities to experiment in the production and presentation of new work in close collaboration with other artists, curators, scientists, innovators and audiences.

Since its inception in 2013, Luma Arles has commissioned and presented the work of more than 100 artists, thinkers, and innovators, in different locations around Arles. It has also overseen the transformation of the Parc des Ateliers, a 17-acre former industrial site in Arles, which is situated adjacent to the city's celebrated UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Luma Arles encompasses six historic, large-scale industrial buildings, five of which have been revitalized by American architect Annabelle Selldorf for presentations, installations, exhibitions, and artists' residences. The centerpiece of Luma Arles is the Arts Resource Centre designed by American architect Frank Gehry. The surrounding gardens and public park have been designed with Belgium landscape architect Bas Smets. More info: luma-arles.org.

The Shed is a new cultural institution of and for the 21st century. It produces and welcomes innovative art and ideas, across all forms of creativity, to build a shared understanding of our rapidly changing world and a more equitable society. In its highly adaptable building on Manhattan's west side, The Shed brings together established and emerging artists to create new work in fields ranging from pop to classical music, painting to digital media, theater to literature, and sculpture to dance. It seeks opportunities to collaborate with cultural peers and community organizations, work with like-minded partners, and provide unique spaces for private events. As an independent nonprofit that values invention, equity, and generosity, The Shed is committed to advancing art forms, addressing the urgent issues of our time, and making its work impactful, sustainable, and relevant to the local community, the cultural sector, New York City, and beyond.

Deutsche Bank is the Global Lead Partner of Frieze. It has supported the fair since 2004, helping it expand to New York and Los Angeles, broaden its scope to include Frieze Masters in London and now venture online with Frieze Viewing Room.

With its extensive collection of works on paper and photography, Deutsche Bank has supported the work of cutting-edge international artists and their galleries for 40 years - distinguishing itself as a global leader in corporate art programs.

Deutsche Bank is Germany's leading bank, with a strong position in Europe and a significant presence in the Americas and Asia-Pacific. It provides commercial and investment banking, retail banking, transaction banking and asset and wealth management products and services to corporations, governments, institutional investors, small and medium sized businesses, and private individuals.