Robert Rauschenberg Foundation Announces New Grants for Artists

Calling creativity a key component of social change, RRF expands its Artist as Activist program; grant proposal process opens September

New York — The Robert Rauschenberg Foundation announced today that it will build on its recent grant-making pilots and for the first time in its history roll out a series of open calls for proposals. Over the next six months, the foundation will announce new grant opportunities related to arts and culture as well as efforts to address climate change. The first open call launches today, September 8th.

Letters of interest are invited for the Artist as Activist program, which will support a wide range of creative professionals to tackle pressing issues around the globe. Current grant opportunities include a two-year fellowship for artists, designers, and other creative thinkers working to address problems facing societies in the U.S. and beyond, as well as ongoing travel and research grants for similar artists.

Fellowship letters of interest will be accepted from September 8 – October 13, 2014; Fellows are eligible for up to $100,000 in project support. Artist as Activist Travel and Research Grant applications will be accepted on a rolling basis between September 8, 2014 and March 15, 2015; Travel and Research grants will range from $2,500 to $10,000. For specific program details, applicants should visit www.rauschenbergfoundation.org/grants/apply-now.

The Artist as Activist program is designed in response to a growing body of artists working in service of a larger social purpose. This grant’s central goal is to ensure such artists have the kind of flexible support required to execute ambitious creative projects intended to move the needle on the critical issues of our times.

“Art driven by a desire to make a direct impact in movements for change is not new,” notes Risë Wilson, Director of Philanthropy of the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation. “But there is a recent
swell in the aspirations to work this way, which we recognize does not fit neatly into a box and can easily fall through the cracks of conventional funding mechanisms.”

All of the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation’s philanthropy programs operate with a set of core values that embody Rauschenberg’s work as both an artist and a philanthropist. They include practices like experimentation, creative problem solving, interdisciplinary collaboration, and a belief that art and artists are powerful agents of social and cultural change.

"Robert Rauschenberg said that he lived in the gap between art and life. He used his artistic voice and creative force to help create a global conversation on issues," said Christy MacLear, Executive Director. "In that vein we are looking for artists and organizations to expand that very legacy."

The next call for proposals, which will support innovative efforts to address climate change, will be announced on November 10, 2014.

Image: Detail of Rauschenberg’s "muse wall," a collection of objects and images that inspired him, located in his print shop, Captiva, Florida, ca. 1979. Photo Credit: Emil Fray

About the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation:
The Robert Rauschenberg Foundation fosters the legacy of the artist’s life, work, and philosophy that art can change the world. The foundation supports initiatives at the intersection of arts and issues that embody the fearlessness, innovation, and multidisciplinary approach that Robert Rauschenberg exemplified in both his art and philanthropic endeavors. In the last year alone, the foundation has broadened its philanthropic efforts from seven legacy grantees to ninety-five across the U.S.A.; loaned over 100 Rauschenberg artworks to 20 exhibitions globally; and converted Rauschenberg’s home and studio in Florida into a dynamic residency program for emerging and recognized artists.