



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Elisabeth Sussman, Curator and Sondra Gilman Curator of Photography at the Whitney Museum of American Art To Receive the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College 2013 Audrey Irmas Award for Curatorial Excellence**

**Award Given With Audrey Irmas Prize of \$25,000  
Presented at CCS Bard Gala Celebration On April 3, 2013 at 6:30pm  
in New York City**

**ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON, NY, November 29, 2012** — **The Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College (CCS Bard)** is pleased to announce that **Elisabeth Sussman, Curator and Sondra Gilman Curator of Photography at the Whitney Museum of American Art**, is the recipient of the **2013 Audrey Irmas Award for Curatorial Excellence**. The award will be presented at a gala celebration and dinner on **April 3, 2013 at 6:30pm** in New York City.

Elisabeth Sussman's recent exhibition *Paul Thek: Diver, A Retrospective* completed a three venue tour, closing at the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles in August 2012, and was awarded the International Association of Art Critics (AICA)'s award for best monographic show in New York (2011). Prior to that, her exhibition *William Eggleston: Democratic Camera, Photographs and Video, 1961-2008* was on a four venue international tour, closing at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art earlier this year.

Sussman's exhibition, *Gordon Matta-Clark: "You Are the Measure"* was awarded the AICA award for best monographic show in New York (2007). Sussman also co-organized, with Renate Petzinger of the Museum Wiesbaden in Germany, a full retrospective on the work of Eva Hesse at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA) (2002), which received the AICA's First Prize for the best monographic exhibition outside of New York in 2001 and 2002. Also for SFMOMA, Sussman organized, with Sandra Phillips, *Diane Arbus: Revelation*, a retrospective of the work of Diane Arbus.

At the Whitney, Sussman curated the Museum's 1993 Biennial Exhibition, and co-curated the 2012 Whitney Biennial, alongside Jay Sanders. Other exhibitions she has organized at the Whitney include *Remote Viewing: Invented Worlds in Recent Painting and Drawing* (2005); *Keith Haring* (1997); *Nan Goldin: I'll Be Your Mirror* (1996), with David Armstrong; and *Mike Kelley: Catholic Tastes* (1993).

Sussman's curatorial career also includes 15 years at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, where she served as Interim Director (1991) and Deputy Director for Programs (1989-91). In addition to being a fellow of the Rockefeller Foundation at the Rockefeller Study and Conference Center in Bellagio, Italy (1999), and at the Getty Research Institute (2001), Sussman is author of many publications and has taught at M.I.T. and Tufts University.

As the recipient of the **sixteenth CCS Bard Award for Curatorial Excellence**, Sussman is recognized for her dynamic curatorial vision and her dedication to the field. The 2013 award has been designed by artist Lawrence Weiner, and is based on his 2006 commission *Bard Enter*, conceived for the entrance to the Hessel Museum of Art at CCS Bard. The award also comes with the **Audrey Irmias Prize of \$25,000**.

### **About CCS Bard's Audrey Irmias Award for Curatorial Excellence**

For sixteen years, the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College has celebrated and awarded the individual achievements of a leading curator or curators whose lasting contributions have shaped the way we conceive of exhibition-making today. For the second time, the 2013 award will be given under the name of patron **Audrey Irmias**, who has bestowed the endowment for the Award. Irmias is a board member of CCS Bard and an active member of the Los Angeles arts and philanthropic community.

The awardee is selected by an independent panel of leading contemporary art curators, museum directors, and artists. Past recipients include Harald Szeemann (1998), Marcia Tucker (1999), Kasper König (2000), Paul Schimmel (2001), Susanne Ghez (2002), Kynaston McShine (2003), Walter Hopps (2004), Kathy Halbreich and Mari Carmen Ramírez (2005), Lynne Cooke and Vasif Kortun (2006), Alanna Heiss (2007), Catherine David (2008), Okwui Enwezor (2009), Lucy Lippard (2010), Helen Molesworth (2011), Hans Ulrich Obrist (2011), Ann Goldstein (2012). The award reflects CCS Bard's commitment to recognizing individuals who have defined new thinking, bold vision, and dedicated service to the field of exhibition practice.

**Elisabeth Sussman** is the Curator and Sondra Gilman Curator of Photography at the Whitney Museum of America Art. Most recently, Sussman, along with co-curator Jay Sanders, curated the 2012 Whitney Biennial. Prior to that, her exhibition *Paul Thek: Diver, A Retrospective* completed its three venue tour, closing at the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles in August. *Diver* was awarded the AICA award for best monographic show in New York (2011). Sussman's recent AICA award adds to her list of accolades and award winning exhibitions, including her exhibition *Gordon Matta-Clark: "You Are the Measure,"* which was also awarded the AICA award for best monographic show in New York (2007).

As a curator, Sussman has organized numerous national and international exhibitions, like her recent *William Eggleston: Democratic Camera, Photographs and Video, 1961-2008*, a four venue international tour, closing at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. For the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Sussman has organized, with Sandra Phillips, a retrospective of the works of Diane Arbus, *Diane Arbus: Revelation*. The catalogue for the Arbus exhibition received the 2004 Infinity Award for Publication of the International Center of Photography. An established photography curator, Sussman is also a proven curator of other mediums, winning the AICA's First Prize award for best monographic show for her Eva Hesse retrospective, also for SFMOMA (2001, 2002).

### **About the Center for Curatorial Studies**

The Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College (CCS Bard) is an exhibition, education, and research center dedicated to the study of art and curatorial practices from the 1960s to the present day.

In addition to the CCS Bard Galleries and Hessel Museum of Art, the Center houses the Marieluise Hessel Collection, as well as an extensive library and curatorial archives that are accessible to the public. The Center's two-year M.A. program in curatorial studies is specifically designed to deepen students' understanding of the intellectual and practical tasks of curating contemporary art. Exhibitions are presented year-round in the CCS Bard Galleries and Hessel Museum of Art, providing students with the opportunity to work with world-renowned artists and

curators. The exhibition program and the Hessel Collection also serve as the basis for a wide range of public programs and activities exploring art and its role in contemporary society.

Founded in 1990, the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College opened its doors in 1992.

**General information on the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College can be found on the website: [www.bard.edu/ccs](http://www.bard.edu/ccs).**

For more information on the Audrey Irmas Award for Curatorial Excellence Award Gala Dinner or to purchase tickets, please contact:

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