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Prospect New Orleans Announces Franklin Sirmans As New Artistic Director

New Orleans, LA, November 10, 2011 – **Dan Cameron**, Founding Director of Prospect New Orleans, along with the Board of Directors of U.S. Biennial, Inc, have announced the appointment of **Franklin Sirmans as Artistic Director of Prospect.3**, which is scheduled to open in October 2013. As the first curator outside the organization to take up the artistic directorship of the fledgling biennial, Sirmans will establish Prospect.3's thematic structure, select the participating artists and projects, and collaborate with the biennial's staff to situate the projects in suitable venues. Sirmans will also write the catalog's principal essay.

Says Cameron, "With the successful opening of Prospect.2 still fresh in people's minds, this is the perfect moment to hand over the reins to another curator. I have hoped since its inception that Prospect New Orleans would become, like Venice and Kassel, a biennial that other curators would aspire to organize, and Franklin is excited to take on this role. We have a good working template for future editions of Prospect New Orleans in terms of how the biennial interacts with the city and its unique culture. Franklin, whose work I've long admired, has the perfect combination of vision and the drive to take Prospect and New Orleans to that next level."

Franklin Sirmans is the Terri and Michael Smooke Department Head and Curator of Contemporary Art at Los Angeles County Museum of Art, a post he has held since January 2010. Sirmans previously served as the head of modern and contemporary art at the Menil Collection in Houston for several years, where in 2008 he organized his best-known exhibition to date, *NeoHooDoo: Art for a Forgotten Faith*, which later traveled to P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center in New York. Sirmans is also a well-known writer on subject of contemporary art, having worked as an editor at Flash Art and Art AsiaPacific, as well as Dia Art Center.

According to U.S. Biennial Board member Susan Brennan, a New Orleans film studio owner who has been at the forefront of local efforts to promote Prospect New Orleans, "We are at a very good place right now. There's a lot of interest in P.2, and Franklin has great ideas for P.3. I think Dan has created an infrastructure that really enables this biennial to grow and prosper in the years to come."

Cameron, who worked closely with a Board committee to select Sirmans from a short list of U.S.- based curators, will continue to work with Prospect New Orleans as a member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of U.S. Biennial, which he founded in 2007. Cameron has also recently been appointed Chief Curator of the Orange County Museum of Art. His appointment will begin in January 2012. Prospect.2 New Orleans currently runs through January 29, 2012.