

# Institute of Contemporary University Art of Pennsylvania

118 S. 36th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104  
(215) 898-7108, [icaphila.org](http://icaphila.org)

NEWS RELEASE

## Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania Becomes First Museum Certified by W.A.G.E.

March 22, 2018

PHILADELPHIA, PA

Today, the Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania (ICA) announced that it will be the first museum certified by W.A.G.E. (Working Artists and the Greater Economy), a New York-based activist organization founded in 2008 which advocates for artists to receive fair compensation from the institutions which contract their work. ICA joins a group of over 50 certified institutions since the program's launch in 2014, including the Swiss Institute, Artists Space, Locust Projects, Jacob Lawrence Gallery, as well as the museum-related organization *Open Space*, a platform run by the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art that publishes writings by curators, artists, and critics.

"ICA's commitment to artists is at the core of everything we do. Our partnership with W.A.G.E. helps to set a new standard in the museum field, one that ensures equitable environments for the artists with whom we work," said ICA Director Amy Sadao. "We're proud to be the first museum to join this diverse group of arts and culture institutions across the U.S. who are certified, and hope that it will encourage other museums to do the same."

"W.A.G.E. Certification was initiated in the absence of government regulation and with the understanding that the nonprofit sector is not capable of regulating itself," writes W.A.G.E. "In 2008 when W.A.G.E. was founded, non-payment was an industry standard. Ten years later, paying artists is finally becoming standard practice."

The decision by the Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania to become the first W.A.G.E. Certified museum is

## MEDIA CONTACTS

Adriana Elgarresta, Resnicow and Associates,  
212-671-5155, [aelgarresta@resnicow.com](mailto:aelgarresta@resnicow.com)  
Racheal Campbell, Resnicow and Associates,  
212-671-5157, [rcampbell@resnicow.com](mailto:rcampbell@resnicow.com)  
Jill Katz, Institute of Contemporary Art  
Philadelphia, 215-573-9975,  
[katzj@ica.upenn.edu](mailto:katzj@ica.upenn.edu)  
Lise Soskolne, W.A.G.E., 347-213-0701,  
[lise@wageforwork.com](mailto:lise@wageforwork.com)

## GENERAL INFORMATION

ICA IS LOCATED AT:  
118 SOUTH 36TH STREET AT THE  
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA  
(215) 898-7108  
[WWW.ICAPHILA.ORG](http://WWW.ICAPHILA.ORG)  
[@ICAPHILADELPHIA](https://FACEBOOK.COM/ICAPHILADELPHIA)

## MUSEUM HOURS

WEDNESDAY, 11AM–8PM  
THURSDAY–SUNDAY, 11AM–6PM

ICA IS ALWAYS FREE. FOR ALL.

FREE ADMISSION IS COURTESY OF  
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significant because “it demonstrates that a museum is capable of meeting external payment standards, and more importantly that those standards can be set by workers,” writes W.A.G.E.

W.A.G.E. fees are calculated based on an institution’s total annual operating budget. With an annual operating budget of \$4.8M, ICA is responsible for tracking all fee payments and remaining compliant by ensuring W.A.G.E. minimum standards are met for a minimum of one year.

## ABOUT W.A.G.E. CERTIFICATION

W.A.G.E. Certification is a national program initiated in 2014. Operated by W.A.G.E. (Working Artists and the Greater Economy) it publicly recognizes those nonprofit arts organizations demonstrating a history of, and commitment to, voluntarily paying artist fees that meet W.A.G.E. minimum payment standards.

W.A.G.E. Certification is generously supported by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the Foundation for Arts Initiatives, and The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation.

## ABOUT THE INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

The Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania is a non-collecting institution presenting exhibitions at the forefront of contemporary practice and culture that challenge audiences to think in new ways. The ICA is free for all to engage and connect with the art of our time. Since its founding in 1963, ICA has served as a laboratory for the new, introducing and supporting the production of urgent and important contemporary art, beginning with ICA’s inaugural show of paintings by Abstract Expressionist Clyfford Still, followed by the first museum show of works by Andy Warhol in 1965. Throughout its history, ICA has been instrumental in identifying and developing many promising artists before they attained prominence within the international art world, some of whom include—in addition to Warhol—Laurie Anderson, Richard Artschwager, Vija Celmins, Karen Kilimnik, Barry Le Va, Glenn Ligon, Robert Rauschenberg, Agnes Martin, Pepón Osorio, Tavares Strachan, and Cy Twombly.