

# The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum

For Immediate Release

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## THE ALDRICH CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM TO AWARD JACK WHITTEN WITH THIRD ANNUAL A2A AWARD

Ridgefield, CT (January 2017)— Artist Jack Whitten will receive the third annual A2A Award at The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum’s annual Gala Benefit and Auction on May 6, 2017. Past recipients include Tom Sachs and Jackie Winsor.

Jack Whitten, one of the most significant abstract painters of our time, has had a long history at the Museum. Founder Larry Aldrich championed Whitten’s work and purchased the painting *Shadows* for his collection in 1971. His work was also featured in Mr. Aldrich’s then-new non-profit exhibition space, The Soho Center for Visual Arts, on Prince Street in New York City in 1974. Whitten’s work has also been included in The Aldrich’s *30 Years: Art in the Present Tense*, *The Aldrich’s Curatorial History, 1964-1994* (1994); *In the Flesh* (1996); and a solo exhibition *Jack Whitten: Evolver* (2014), which opened the Museum’s series of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary exhibitions.

“Larry was a strong supporter of my work, he helped me gain critical visual exposure in the early ‘70s. He was a great example of someone who put action to his words and supported artists regardless of color or gender. We need more people like him,” says Whitten.

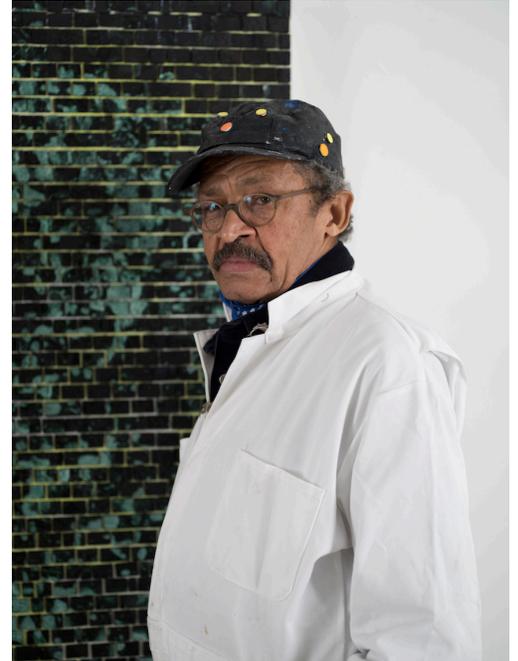


Photo: John Berens

The A2A Award acknowledges and celebrates The Aldrich’s tradition of being a place of creative exchange—exchange between artists, audiences, and those who advocate for the arts. With this award, the Museum continues the tradition of the previous year’s gala honoree creating the A2A award for the recipient. Whitten will receive a unique work by 2016 A2A honoree Jackie Winsor.

Whitten was recently awarded the 2016 National Medal of Arts presented by President Barack Obama—the highest honor specifically for achievement in the arts to be conferred on an individual artist. The Aldrich is pleased to be honoring him at such formative time in his long and rich career.

**For press inquiries, please contact** Emily Devoe at 203.438.4519, extension 140, or [edevoe@aldrichart.org](mailto:edevoe@aldrichart.org)

Support for the 2017 Gala Benefit and Auction provided by Sotheby’s and SONNEMAN.

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