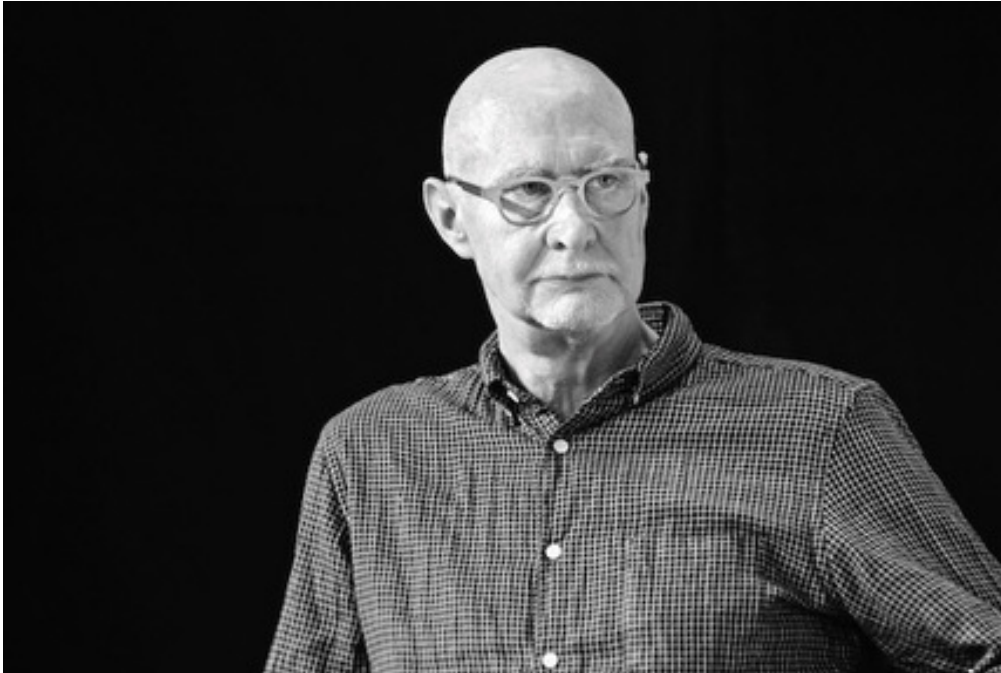


ARTFORUM

NEWS



Douglas Crimp. Photo: Dorothea Tuch.
July 05, 2019 at 2:40pm

DOUGLAS CRIMP (1944–2019)

Douglas Crimp—the art historian, critic, and curator who generated some of the most enduring, foundational texts on postmodern art, queer theory, and institutional critique, and whose later writings on dance galvanized the field and synthesized histories of ballet, modern dance, and postmodern performance—died of multiple myeloma early Friday morning in Manhattan. He was seventy-four years old.

Crimp's earliest attention arrived from his 1977 exhibition "Pictures," a tiny yet epochal show at Artists Space. The show and, perhaps more significantly, the revised version of the catalogue essay that he published in the spring 1979 issue of *October*, snapped into focus the attitude of a generation of artists who had grown up with, and who sought critical distance from, a new era of mass-media American image culture: Cindy Sherman, Sherrie Levine, Philip Smith, Troy Brauntuch, Jack Goldstein, Robert Longo, Laurie Anderson,

and Louise Lawler among them. In 2009, the Metropolitan Museum of Art used the show as a touchstone for its expanded exhibition “The Pictures Generation, 1974–1984.” His 2016 book *Before Pictures*, a heady mix of memoir and theory in the 1960s and ’70s, captures some of the lived moments leading up to the show.

Born August 19, 1944 in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, Crimp studied art history at Tulane University in New Orleans before moving to New York, where he briefly took a job as a curatorial assistant at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and began reviewing exhibitions for *Artnews* and *Art International*. In the early ’70s, Crimp began taking graduate courses at the City University of New York, where he studied under Rosalind Krauss, who soon added him to the masthead of the then-young journal *October* as managing editor, then coeditor—a role he held until 1990, when Crimp resigned over the other editors’ refusal to publish two of six papers from the Anthology Film Archives conference “How Do I Look?” In 2010, with Lynne Cooke, he curated his second exhibition, “Mixed Use, Manhattan,” at the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía in Madrid. At the time of his death, Crimp was the Fanny Knapp Allen professor of art history and professor of visual and cultural studies at the University of Rochester.

In 1987, Crimp, a member of the AIDS activist collective ACT UP, edited a special issue of *October*, in which he crusaded for art “actively participating in the struggle against AIDS and its cultural consequences.” Much of his work on AIDS can be found in *Melancholia and Moralism: Essays on AIDS* and *Queer Politics* (2002), as well as the 1990 chapbook, with Adam Rolston, *AIDS Demo Graphics*. Some of his writing on institutional critique was compiled in *On the Museum’s Ruins* (1993), which also functioned as his Ph.D. dissertation. In 2012, Crimp published *Our Kind of Movie: The Films of Andy Warhol*. A collection of his dance writings is being organized with Dancing Foxes Press.

Read more about and from Douglas Crimp in our archives:

Douglas Crimp on [Merce Cunningham Dance Company’s Beacon Events, October 2008](#)

Douglas Crimp on [the art of Trisha Brown, January 2011](#)

Douglas Crimp on [Louise Lawler’s *Why Pictures Now*, September 2012](#)

[Douglas Crimp's Top 10, December 2018](#)

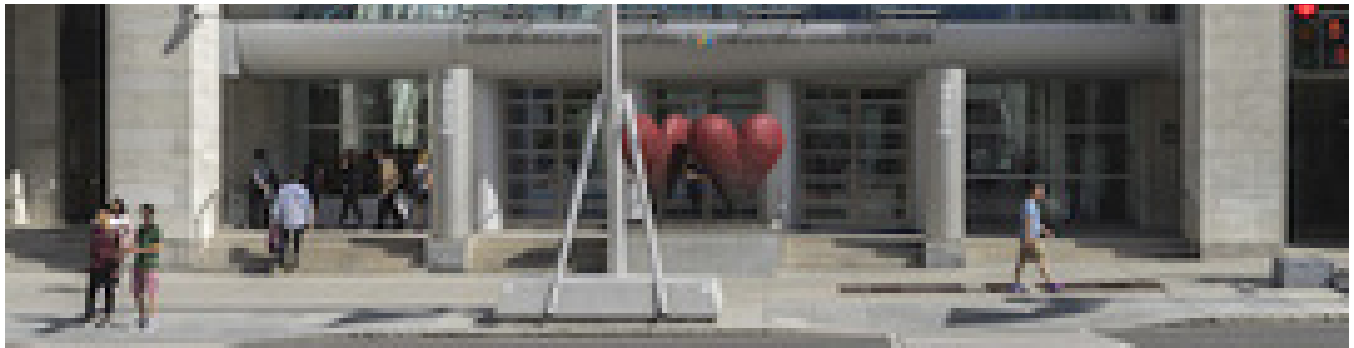
[David Velasco on Douglas Crimp's *Before Pictures*, March 2017](#)

[David Rimanelli on a rehang of "Pictures," October 2001](#)

ALL IMAGES

LATEST NEWS



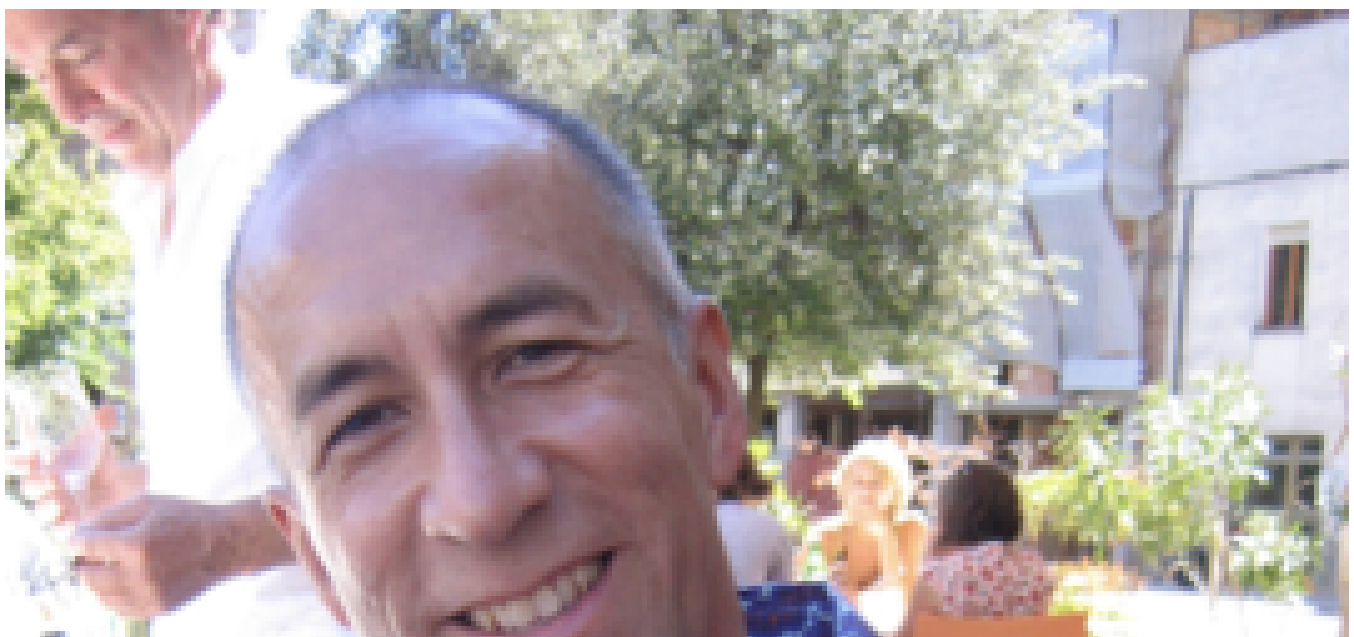


July 25th, 2020 at 7:34pm

MONTREAL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS FIRES DIRECTOR NATHALIE BONDIL, SPARKING OUTCRY, GOV'T INQUIRY

The Board of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts' explosive decision to fire longtime

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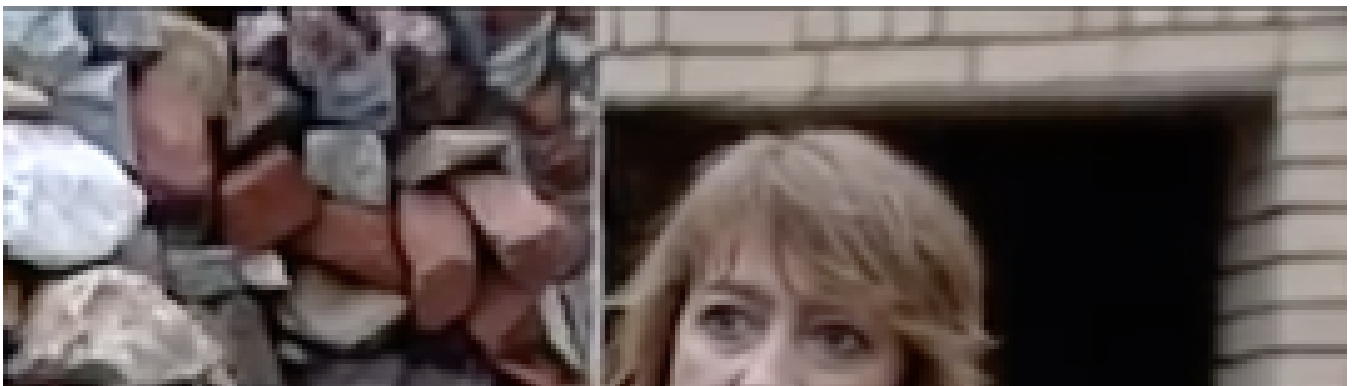


July 25th, 2020 at 1:06am

ED GILBERT (1953–2020)

Collector Ed Gilbert, who championed California's art scene during his formative years in San

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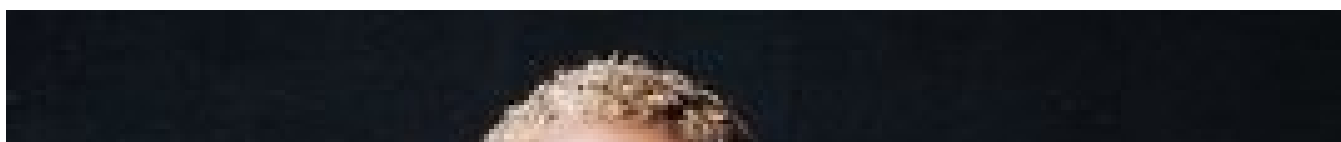


July 24th, 2020 at 8:30pm

GERMAN CURATOR KIDNAPPED IN BAGHDAD IS FREE [UPDATED]

Curator and artist Ulla Meisinger, a German national, was kidnapped by a group of gunmen

[Read more](#)





July 24th, 2020 at 7:00pm

TAYLOR RENEE ALDRIDGE NAMED VISUAL ARTS CURATOR AT CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM

Taylor Renee Aldridge and Susan D. Anderson have been hired by Los Angeles's California African American Museum to lead its visual arts department.

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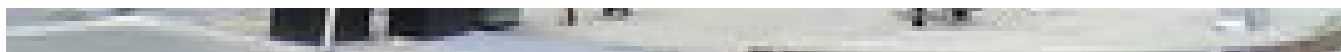
July 24th, 2020 at 4:11am

TURKISH ARTS PHILANTHROPIST OSMAN KAVALA APPROACHES THOUSANDTH DAY IN PRISON

Turkish cultural megalomaniacs are increasing their demands for the release of Osman Kavala...

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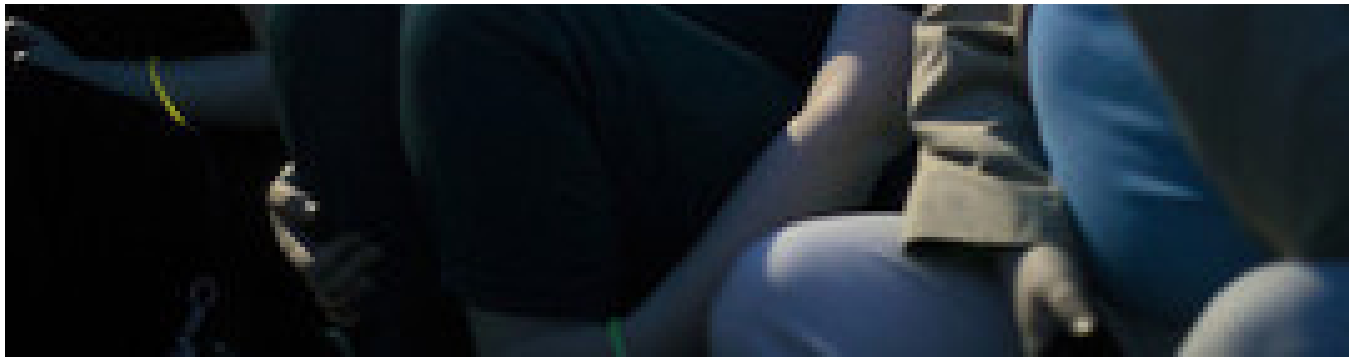
July 23rd, 2020 at 11:25pm

NEW YORK'S TENEMENT MUSEUM, INDEFINITELY CLOSED, LAYS OFF 76 EMPLOYEES

Decline from the economic situation created by the coronavirus pandemic has forced the Tenement Museum to

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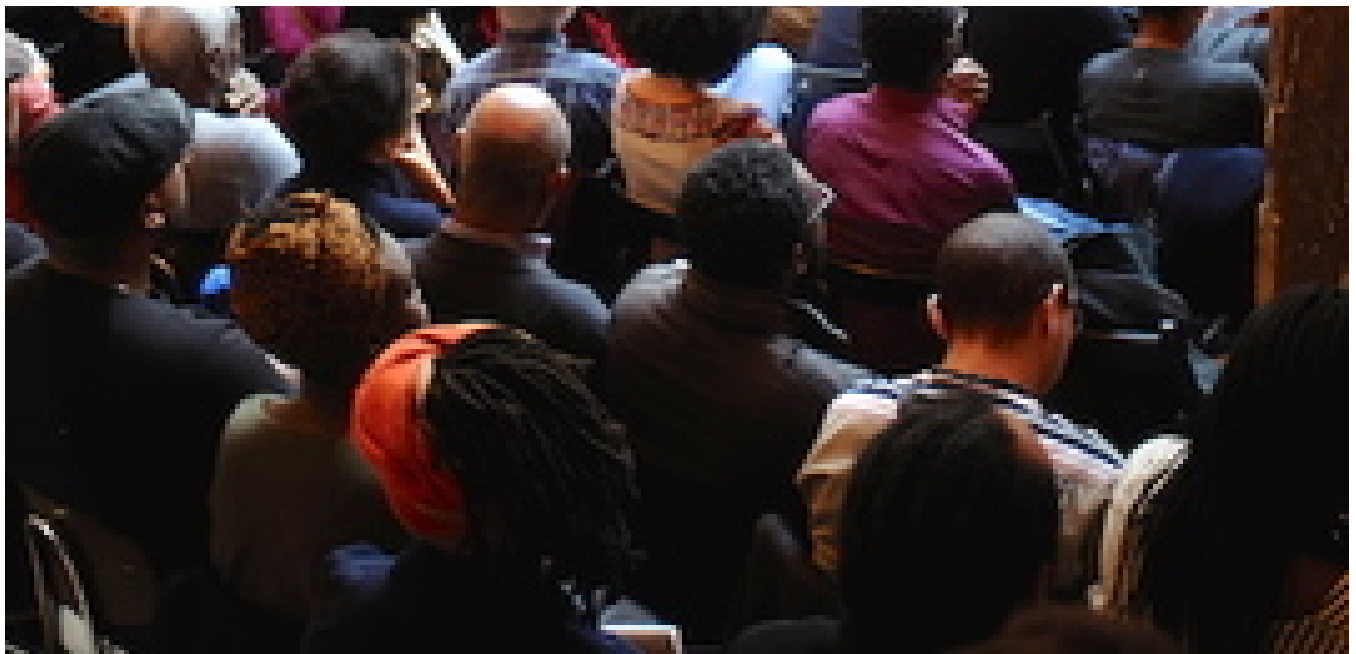
July 23rd, 2020 at 9:40pm

ANNIE FLANAGAN WINS ROBERT GIARD GRANT FOR EMERGING LGBTQ+ PHOTOGRAPHERS

Annie Flanagan, a photographer based between New Orleans and Vermont, has won the

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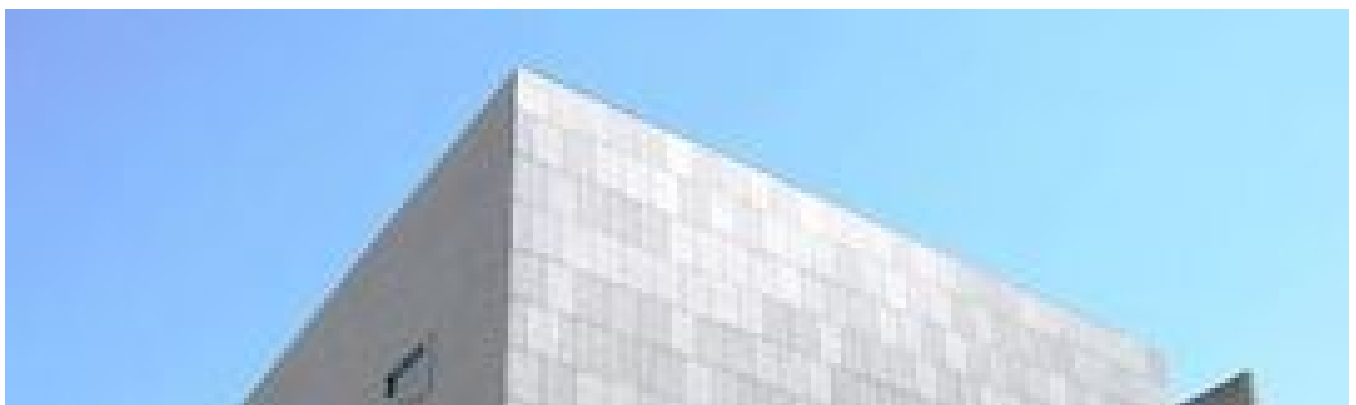


July 21st, 2020 at 10:42pm

KADER ATTIA TO CLOSE PARIS'S LA COLONIE, INDEPENDENT CENTER DEVOTED TO DECOLONIAL THEORY

La Colonie, an independent cultural space in Paris founded by artist Kader Attia with

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July 21st, 2020 at 1:15am

FRICK COLLECTION TO OCCUPY BREUER BUILDING AS “FRICK MADISON”

In early 2021, the Frick Collection will return to the public at 945 Madison Ave. the former

[Read more](#)





July 21st, 2020 at 1:00am

ELIZABETH DEE NAMED DIRECTOR OF NEWLY ESTABLISHED JOHN GIORNO FOUNDATION

The creation of the John Giorno Foundation, a New York-based organization dedicated to...

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July 21st, 2020 at 12:22am

GAVIN BROWN TO JOIN GLADSTONE AS PARTNER, ENDING LONG-RUNNING NYC GALLERY

Gavin Brown is shutting down the influential new-media gallery he's run for twenty-six

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July 20th, 2020 at 10:22pm

KEITH SONNIER (1941–2020)

Canadian Keith Sonnier, who has made his name as a leading light in the contemporary art world, has died at the age of 78.

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