Annual Report
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Art21 is a celebrated global leader in presenting thought-provoking and sophisticated content about contemporary art, and the go-to place to learn first-hand from the artists of our time. A nonprofit organization, Art21’s mission is to inspire a more creative world through the works and words of contemporary artists.

Art21 provides unparalleled access to the artist’s voice to diverse audiences around the world, using the power of digital media to introduce millions of people to contemporary art and artists. For over two decades, Art21 has changed the paradigm for teaching and learning about the creative process.

Dear Friends and Followers,

In a world where technology increasingly mediates human interaction, we all need some release. One reason people engage with Art21 content is because of the intimacy of experience our films provide. This unfettered access into an otherwise private process is its own form of liberation. It’s thrilling to see artists at work. Today with social distancing our new norm, this up-close-ness is needed like never before.

Our films and educational resources put a human face on artistic ideas. Art21 artists exemplify that being creative is possible, even when life circumstances make it seem improbable. The art in an Art21 film can incite a transformational moment in a viewer, inspiring reflection on issues that people are impacted by across economic, social, and political boundaries. Sometimes this takes us to unexpected places—like the U.S.-Mexico border—and when we do it right, it shows us art’s unlimited reach.

Over the course of two decades, there is one group we have learned as much from as the artists we have been fortunate to work with—educators. Every day this group teaches critical thinking skills to their students, engaging with the challenges of creativity and building bridges for future problem solving. We have been taught by them that the greatest creators are empathetic, responding to the unknown with courage as many teachers have themselves done over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. For that, we thank them for their guidance, trust, and resilience.

Borrowing from the pedagogical approach of our best teachers, at Art21 we practice empathy every time we share an artist’s story. By so doing, we hope to pave the way for an expansion of hearts and minds and support a process of deep learning. We understand that finding empathy in this world can be difficult, but we believe it is crucially important—a necessary virtue of human society. Thank you for reading, listening, and watching.

And thank you for joining us in this pursuit.

Yours,

Tina Kukielski
Executive Director

Tina Kukielski
Executive Director
and Chief Curator

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And thank you for joining us in this pursuit.

Yours,

Tina Kukielski

Tina Kukielski
Executive Director
and Chief Curator
Dear Art21 Friends and Family,

Decades of being with Art21 and I am still moved by the words and works of our artist partners. In our first year of production in 2000, Kerry James Marshall spoke of being rewarded in kindergarten for his good behavior. He was allowed to look at his teacher’s coveted scrapbook while his classmates napped. That moment for him was the way forward. He knew then and there that he’d like to make others feel the same way he felt as he looked at the book, “...with tears in my eyes, literally, with tears in my eyes...”

Watching artists at work, welcoming viewers into their lives and studios, I too have had tears in my eyes. And as Kerry was affected by a scrapbook, I like to imagine the work of Art21 affecting many in a similar fashion by revealing different paths forward inspired by the courage and conviction of the artists.

Artists are often depicted as tormented souls with dramatic epiphanies. At Art21 we take a different approach where artists’ lives and work methods are demystified, revealing smart dedicated individuals methodically interpreting and translating their world. Demystification creates clarity allowing Art21’s audience the opportunity to gain multiple perspectives.

Susan Sollins, founder of Art21, wanted contemporary art to reach the largest possible audience and knew that through education and accessibility she would succeed. Free of charge, our programs reveal the value of the artists living among us. As a nonprofit, this ability to provide all that we create makes us very proud and very indebted to all who support us so generously.

To our artists and funders, I deeply appreciate your past, present, and future support. I speak for everyone at Art21 when I say, “We owe it all to you.” And to the magnificent team at Art21 under the leadership of Tina Kukielski, thank you for carrying on with this important work.

With gratitude,

Migs Wright

President Emerita
Board of Trustees
Since its inception in 1997, Art21 has harnessed the power of digital media to introduce millions of people to the works and practices of today’s foremost artists, becoming a vanguard of digital engagement and storytelling on contemporary art. Through its digital reach, Art21 is able to share the voices of contemporary artists with audiences in both remote towns and international city centers, fostering a diverse community that continues to grow.

**Art21.live**

Art21.live is an always-on broadcast platform featuring high-quality, hand-selected video programming on contemporary art and artists.

---

2.1 million+ digital viewers per year

1.4 million+ visits to Art21.org per year

1 million+ social-media followers to date
Films

In Review

More than 65 hours of video free to stream

Featuring over 230 artists

Over 3 million viewers annually

Films offered in 80 languages

Viewed in more than 100 countries

18 artists featured in fiscal year 2019

16 new films released in fiscal year 2019

Art21’s Extended Play digital series provides unmediated, behind-the-scenes access to today’s leading artists. Through process-revealing footage and intimate interviews, these curatorially-driven films chronicle a diverse scale of international projects, ranging from major commissions to exploratory sketches. Produced in close collaboration with artists, Extended Play uncovers the provocative ideas, timely cultural influences, and biographical anecdotes that inspire the artists featured throughout the series. Films from Extended Play were screened in museums, galleries, and film festivals across the world.

“I am who I am because I’m doing what I want to do, not what I’m told to do.”
— Luchita Hurtado
Films

New York Close Up

Art21’s award-winning digital film series, New York Close Up, is devoted to capturing early-career artists living and working in New York City. Providing a unique window into the next wave of art-making in the city, Art21 collaborates with artists to tell stories about their creative processes, diverse backgrounds, and daily realities. Fueled by the creative talent of the subject artists and the independent filmmakers commissioned to make the films, FY19 was a critical highwater mark for the series, receiving multiple Vimeo Staff Picks honors and screenings at prestigious film festivals like DOC NYC.

“Every material has some sort of history or life that it's lived. They become ways of telling stories.” — Kevin Beasley

New York Close Up Films Released in Fiscal Year 2019

- Kevin Beasley's Raw Materials
- Doreen Garner's Invisible Man Tattoo
- Jes Fan in Flux
- Elle Pérez Works Between the Frame
- Dan Herschlein Looks Inside
- Aki Sasamoto: An Artist Walks into a Bar
“As artists, we conduct our educations in public. You can never know whether it's going to be a success or not... One just has to risk it.”
— Anish Kapoor

**Beijing**
Directed by Bryan Chang and Vicky Du. Featuring Guan Xiao, Liu Xiaodong, Song Dong & Yin Xiuzhen, and Xu Bing.

**Borderlands**
Directed by Rafael Salazar Moreno and Ava Wiland. Featuring Tanya Aguiñiga, Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, Richard Misrach, and Postcommodity (Cristóbal Martínez & Kade L. Twist).

**London**

**Films**

**Art in the Twenty-First Century**

The only series on U.S. television to focus on contemporary art, *Art in the Twenty-First Century* is a Peabody Award-winning biennial program. Art21 presents some of today's most innovative artists in their private homes and studios, going behind-the-scenes to reveal how artworks and exhibitions are created. Reflecting that intimacy is the series' signature focus on artists, who narrate their own stories with humor, pathos, and surprising insights. Each episode surveys artists in a single location, exploring their unique and revealing relationships to the cities where they live and work. Season 10's artists examine the structures of our political, societal, and cultural systems, while challenging themselves and audiences to embrace a more empathetic worldview. Season 10 of *Art in the Twenty-First Century* entered production in July 2018 and premiered nationally on PBS and Art21.org in September 2020.
Behind the Scenes of the New Season

Art21 collaborated with an international network of on-site film crews, artist studio teams, galleries and museums, and post-production editors to create Season 10.
Behind the Scenes of the New Season


Filming locations:

- Barcelona
- Beijing
- Boston
- Chicago
- Ciudad Juárez
- Eagle Pass
- Edinburgh
- El Paso
- Jingdezhen
- London
- Los Angeles
- Mónterrey
- Montreal
- New York
- Nogales
- Norco
- San Diego
- San Francisco
- Tijuana
- Tucson
- Venice
Education

Production still from the Art21 special, Bringing Contemporary Art into the Classroom with Art21 Educators. © Art21, Inc. 2019.
EDUCATION

In Review

Over 100 educator alumni
More than 400 pages of teaching guides

2 million students use Art21 resources annually

Art21 educators in 29 states & 4 countries

100% said Art21 enhanced or improved their teaching practice
95% use Art21 materials at least once a semester
95% shared Art21 materials with their peers
81% use materials at least monthly (14% daily, 34.8% weekly, 32.5% monthly)

*From a survey of Art21 Educators, conducted summer 2019
Teaching With Contemporary Art

Art21’s Education initiatives encourage educators and their students to think and work like artists, using thematic, inquiry-driven processes and strategies that reflect how artists think and make work today.

“Certainly every Art21 film, short and long form, is educational as well as entertaining. That’s why we’ve received such accolades, especially during this pandemic when people of all ages are homebound and when teachers or their surrogates must strive to connect with their students remotely, rather than live in a classroom. It makes me reflect on my personal proudest moments for our organization: the opening of each year’s Summer Art Educators program. Our mission, year upon year, is to arm and inspire new art ambassadors around our country and increasingly around the world. These teachers are new points of light, who will bring Art21’s unique vision: The Artist’s Voice and their art to millions of young people, who will go on to comprehend, enjoy and pass along a fresh, enlarged appreciation of art and the people who make it.”

Bob Crothers
Art21 Trustee Emeritus
Art21 Educators

Art21 Educators is an intensive, year-long professional development initiative, designed to support K–12 educators in any subject area who are interested in bringing contemporary art, artists, and themes into classroom teaching and learning.

“The Art21 Institute not only provided an opportunity to dig deep into contemporary art and its benefits to my students, it also provided access to a much needed community of like minded educators and artists in professional and personal life. So often in education it is hard to find professional development that is as passionate about bringing contemporary methods and all the rich learning they provide to our classrooms. In Art21 I feel I not only found a valuable resource, but a tribe.”

Elizabeth Denneau
Tucson, AZ

Summer Institute

Held in New York City each July, the Summer Institute is a six-day immersive program welcoming the incoming cohort of Art21 Educators. Open to alumni and mentors, activities include film workshops, technology tutorials, museum and gallery visits, lesson planning and studio visits with Art21 artists. The 2019 Institute featured artists Bryan Zanisnik, who led a workshop, and Abigail DeVille, who hosted a studio visit.

“Writing as an Educator-in-Residence added new depth to my experience as an Art21 Educator. It gave me a unique opportunity to reflect on the success and meaningfulness of using contemporary art in my classroom and to advocate for contemporary art in art education to a wide audience.”

Marie Elcin
Philadelphia, PA

Educator-in-Residence

The Educator-in-Residence is a three-month residency that coincides with an editorial theme, established quarterly by Art21, and offers Art21 Educators a platform with which to share insights.

“The Art21 Educators Summer Institute enriched me as both an artist and an educator. It afforded me the time, space and experiences to critically look at the ways I teach in the classroom and to reinvigorate my passion for art education. Most significantly, it provided me with a community of peers that I could get inspired by, rely upon, and work with towards the common goal of using contemporary art to address contemporary issues. The profound impacts of these relationships will benefit not only myself but my school community. I could not be more grateful or excited to be an Art21 Educator.”

Sarah Ceurvorst
Pittsburgh, PA
Art21 Ambassadors

Art21 Ambassadors makes the educational resources and teaching strategies developed in Art21 Educators accessible to a larger network of educators, with Art21 staff and select program alumni leading professional development seminars and workshops virtually and in various locations nationwide.

In fiscal year 2019, Art21 began preliminary planning for the launch of the initiative. Staff conducted site visits to schools and cultural organizations around the nation, including Seattle, Washington; San Francisco, California; Santa Fe, New Mexico; Durham, North Carolina; Boston, Massachusetts; and more.

Classroom Impact

“As I teach in a rural area, the films are an invaluable resource for students. They would otherwise have very little connection to contemporary art and artists. Sometimes they are befuddled by the films as they may address issues they are either unfamiliar with or have negative feelings toward. But that can be a good thing.”

Stacey Abramson
Maples Collegiate
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

“The students see artists who look, think, and make like them. I don't think there is anything more empowering to a teenager than feeling like they are seen.”

Craig Newsom
Blackburn College
Carlinville, IL

“The Art21 films make the creative process visible. Through these films, Art21 artists act as mentors for my elementary school artists, who can see how artists collaborate, research, embrace ambiguity, experiment and play, ask questions, invent, engage communities, and protest. Art21 films do such an amazing job of turning the complex and often mysterious nature of creating art into something that helps to shape and root the creative process of even my youngest students.”

Shannah Burton
New City School
St. Louis, Missouri
Art21 tailors each public program to an artist’s practice, interests, and personality. Partnering with relevant cultural institutions allows Art21 the opportunity to experiment with new formats and allows artists to share ideas in a live setting that engage audiences. From film premieres and talks to artists’ curated film playlists, Art21 offers a wide variety of programs that enliven discussions about contemporary art.

Highlights from Fiscal Year 2019

**SCREENING + TALK**
Exhibition preview with artist **Susan Philipsz** at Tanya Bonakdar Gallery

**FILM SCREENING**
**Creative Growth Art Center** film shown in partnership with Outsider Art Fair at the Ace Hotel

**BOOK LAUNCH + TALK**
“Being An Artist” book launch with artists **Diana Al-Hadid** and **Ursula von Rydingsvard** at Karma Gallery Bookstore

**SCREENING + TALK**
An evening of short films curated by artist **Alex Da Corte** at Nitehawk Cinema

**FILM SCREENING**
**Alex Da Corte: 57 Varieties** in partnership with Red Hook Flicks

**SCREENING + TALK**
A program of short films curated by artist **Marcel Dzama** at Nitehawk Cinema
Board of Trustees:
Art21’s Board of Trustees is comprised of an inspiring group of individuals - many of whom have been with the organization since its founding - each of whom contribute a wealth of knowledge from their experience in film, technology and philanthropy. With their creative direction and oversight, Art21 is able to foster a dynamic conversation on contemporary art and artists through film, education initiatives and digital engagement.

David Howe, Chairman
James Cohan, President
Sarah Booth, Secretary
Ryan Rockefeller, Treasurer
Migs Wright, President Emerita
Robert Crothers, Trustee Emeritus
Susan Dowling, Trustee Emerita
Albert Gottesman, Trustee Emeritus
Anne Bevis Detwiler
Natan Bibliowicz
Louise Eliasof
Jess Fardella
Hedy Fischer
Dawn Fleischner
Tucker Gates
Dolly Bross Geary
Barbara Gundlach

Staff
Art21’s projects are realized through the efforts of a creative group of individuals who contribute their unique talents to further the organization’s mission.

Tina Kukielski
Executive Director and Chief Curator

Lauren Barnett
Director of Development

Danielle Brock
Assistant Curator

Lolita Fierro
Associate Director of Major Gifts and Special Events

Ian Forster
Producer

Joe Fusaro
Senior Education Advisor

Jonathan Munar
Director of Digital

Emma Nordin
Manager of Education Initiatives

Nick Ravich
Director of Video Programming and Production

Special thanks to members of the Art21 staff and community through recent years:

Meghan Garven
Melissa Saenz Gordon

Filmmakers
A number of talented independent filmmakers directed, shot, produced, and edited Art21’s films during fiscal year 2019.

Lorena Alvarado
Bryan Chang
Vicky Du
Adam Golfer
Troy Herion
Amitabh Joshi
Ephraim Kirkwood
Brian Redondo
Morgan Riles
Rafael Salazar
Erik Spink
Christine Turner
Ava Wiland
Rosie Walunas
COMMUNITY

Donors

Thanks to our loyal community of supporters, Art21 is able to produce engaging films and content—all of which is always on and accessible, free of charge. We invite you to deepen your connection to Art21.

Art21 Contemporary Council

A refreshing annual engagement program, the Art21 Contemporary Council is a meaningful way to support the production of Art21 films and educational programs. Members enjoy behind-the-scenes and special access experiences with artists and filmmakers such as, studio visits, private collection tours, travel opportunities, screenings and artist talks.

Highlights from Fiscal Year 2019

Travel to Pittsburgh for the closing of the 57th Carnegie International

Private studio visit with Josiah McElheny

Screening and dinner with artists Alex Da Corte and Marcel Dzama

Luchita Hurtado screening and BBQ

Day trip to Glenstone Collection, the SAAM, and the Renwick Invitational with artist Stephanie Syjuco

Spring day in New York visiting The Shed and the 2019 Whitney Biennial with artist Elle Pérez

Exhibition Preview with artist Hiroshi Sugimoto at Marian Goodman Gallery
“As a longtime supporter of Art21's education program, being able to directly impact educators and students worldwide is deeply meaningful to me.”

Brenda R. Potter
Art21 Donor since 2009

“As a longtime supporter of Art21's education program, being able to directly impact educators and students worldwide is deeply meaningful to me.”

Anne Bevis Detwiler
Andreas Foundation and Art21 Trustee

“Bloomberg Philanthropies aims to strengthen art and cultural institutions around the world. We support organizations that empower artists and Art21 exemplifies this. Art21 is a trailblazer in thoughtful film making that provides the public with free access to art and artists. It is an honor to be a supporter of this organization for nearly two decades.”

Sarah H. Booth
Corporate Philanthropy at Bloomberg and Art21 Trustee

Individual and Institutional Supporters, Fiscal Year 2019

$100,000 and above
Andreas Foundation
The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts
Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation, Inc.
The David S. Howe Foundation
The Lambent Foundation Fund of the Tides Foundation
National Endowment for the Arts
Migs and Bing Wright

$15,000–24,999
Hedy Fischer and Randy Shull
Robert & Toni Bader Charitable Foundation

$10,000–14,999
Arts, Equity, & Education Fund
Chao Foundation
Ryan and Tucker Gates
Jonathan O. Lee
Will Palley
Robert Lehman Foundation

$5,000–9,999
El Anatsui
Karyn Bendit
Jessica and Natan Bibliowicz
Deutsche Bank
Mark Dorfman
Dolly and Jack Geary
Andrea Glimcher
Goldman Sachs
Mark Gross and billy ocallaghan
Susan Harris
Henry John Simonds Foundation
The H. W. Wilson Foundation
Stephanie A. and Timothy Ingrassia
Patricia Lopez Granados
Lori Perlow
Debbie and Mitchell Rechler
Matt Ross
Frank Williams

$1,000–4,999
Lee and Millard Alexander
Lawrence B. Benenson
Fred Bidwell
Leslie Cecil and Creighton Michael
Cowles Charitable Trust
Robert Crothers
Jocelyne DeNunzio
Susan Dunne
The Fine and Greenwald Foundation
The Foundation To-Life, Inc.
Emily Frantz
Andrew Goffe
Wendy Gordon and Laurence Rockefeller
Annie E. Harleman
Ellen and Jack Kessler
Alex Lakatos
Kerry James Marshall
Amitha Raman
Maria and João Rendeiro
Ann Schaffer
Lauren and Tim Schrager
Sara and John Shlesinger
Studio Institute LLC
Barbara Toll
Robin Wright

*We have made every effort to accurately list the donations made in FY2019 (October 1, 2018–Sept 30, 2019). If you believe that your name has been mistakenly left off this list, please contact us at support@art21.org.
Financial Statements

Statement of Activities
September 30, 2019

REVENUE AND SUPPORT

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Grants, contributions, and special events</td>
<td>$2,066,758</td>
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<td>Donated services</td>
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<td>(Loss) Gain on the sale of marketable securities</td>
<td>$(6,965)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
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<td>Royalties and licensing fees</td>
<td>$167,065</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>$2,664</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total unrestricted support</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,426,901</strong></td>
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EXPENSES

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<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education and Program Services</td>
<td>$1,339,416</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting services - Management and general</td>
<td>$187,349</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$176,471</td>
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<td><strong>Total supporting services</strong></td>
<td><strong>$363,821</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,703,236</strong></td>
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CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets at beginning of year</td>
<td>$4,194,481</td>
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<td>Net assets at end of year</td>
<td>$4,918,146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Change in net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$723,665</strong></td>
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Art21 depends on the generosity of supporters to carry on its mission of inspiring a more creative world through the words and works of contemporary artists and innovative digital storytelling.

Deepen your connection to Art21 and donate today.

**Ways to Give**
- Make a one-time donation
- Become a monthly supporter
- Be a corporate sponsor
- Host a private screening

**Mail a Check,** payable to Art21, to:
Art21, Inc.
Attn: Development
231 W 29th St., Suite 706
New York, NY 10001

**Donate Online**
[art21.org/give](http://art21.org/give)

**Get in Touch**
✉️ support@art21.org
📞 212.741.7133

**Stay Updated**
✉️ [art21.org/newsletter](http://art21.org/newsletter)
Editors: Lauren Barnett, Meghan Garven, and Jonathan Munar

Design: Biel Studio

Image captions for both front and back: