



Media Contact
Hannah DeGarmo
Manager of Communications
hannah@art21.org

Art in the Twenty-First Century: New Season Premieres Tonight

Featuring Alex Da Corte, Daniel Lind-Ramos, Amy Sherald, and Rose B. Simpson, "Everyday Icons," airs at 10pm on PBS



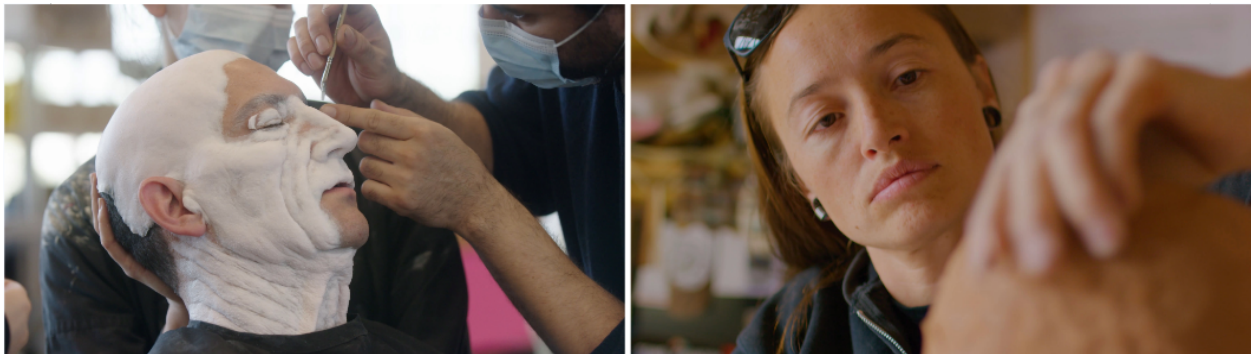
New York, New York (April 7, 2023) – Tonight, **Art21** is thrilled to premiere the eleventh season of the Emmy-nominated, Peabody Award-winning documentary series *Art in the Twenty-First Century*. Airing on **PBS** at **10 PM ET**, “Everyday Icons,” will be the first of three one-hour episodes, ushering in the latest season of the longest-running television series on contemporary art.

“Everyday Icons” poses two fundamental questions: Who and what gets to represent a culture? Why do we exalt some symbols and icons, while ignoring others? The episode profiles four artists who challenge culturally-ingrained monuments and icons, and have developed their own visual worlds to reflect a changing society. Portraitist **Amy Sherald** meticulously remixes iconic American images, while reflecting on her past and the past of a nation. **Alex Da Corte** welcomes viewers into his dreamlike studio, as he finds new depth in familiar icons from pop culture, mythology, and art history. In Loíza, Puerto Rico, **Daniel Lind-Ramos** collects debris from Hurricane Maria for a sculpture, interweaving the sublimity and terror of the hurricane with the Caribbean immigration experience. **Rose B. Simpson** incorporates the stylistics of the Santa Clara Pueblo into her work, empowering herself through her ancestry and inheritance. As each one confronts everyday symbols and questions of American identity, what emerges are intimate portraits of four unique, and yet distinctly American, artists.

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“When setting out to make this episode, we looked to artists who question the visual traditions and values codified into our culture,” explains **Tina Kukielski, Susan Sollins Executive Director and Chief Curator of Art21**. “These four artists show us alternate paths toward a more accurate picture of our world. Together they develop an iconography that promotes deeper

modes of empathy, connection, and critical thought to reflect a shared reality across diverse identities and experiences.”



The rest of the season continues to grant unprecedented access into groundbreaking artists' studios and piercing insight into their creative process. “Bodies of Knowledge,” airing on **June 23**, explores little-known truths about society and its workings, featuring **Guerrilla Girls, Anicka Yi, Tauba Auerbach**, and **Hank Willis Thomas**. The third and final episode, “Friends and Strangers,” airing on **October 20**, finds power and beauty in grassroots activism, personal stories, and collective response, with artists **Linda Goode Bryant, Miranda July, Christine Sun Kim**, and **Cannupa Hanska Luger**. In these episodes, filmmakers were able to capture an in-the-moment Guerrilla Girls demonstration, an impromptu art activation by Miranda July, and the process and ideation behind Hank Willis Thomas' sculpture *The Embrace*.

Catch “Everyday Icons” tonight, **April 7**, on **PBS at 10 PM ET**. A dual media player on the Art21 website will accompany the premiere of “Everyday Icons,” offering a descriptive audio option to improve accessibility for viewers with vision impairments. Check your local PBS station's schedule to see “Everyday Icons” after its premiere. The episode will also be available on [Art21.org](https://www.art21.org) and across PBS digital streaming platforms beginning in Fall 2023.

Major underwriting for Season 11 of *Art in the Twenty-First Century* is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, Lambent Foundation, The Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, Toby Devan Lewis, Robert Lehman Foundation, and Nion McEvoy & Leslie Berriman.

ABOUT ART21

Art21 is the world's leading source to learn directly from the artists of our time. A nonprofit organization, the mission of Art21 is to educate and expand access to contemporary art, producing documentary films, resources, and public programs. Learn more at [Art21.org](https://www.art21.org).

PRESS CONTACT

Hannah DeGarmo

Manager of Communications, Art21

hannah@art21.org

Georgie McKeon

Account Coordinator, Cultural Counsel

georgie@culturalcounsel.com