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**EXPO CHICAGO ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL ART CRITICS FORUM DURING  
FIFTH ANNUAL EXPOSITION**

**Sarah Douglas to Moderate “Transparency | Opacity” Featuring Noted Art Critics  
Judd Tully, Mark Rappolt, Kolja Reichert and Iona Whittaker at Navy Pier’s Festival Hall  
September 23, 2016**

CHICAGO—EXPO CHICAGO, The International Exposition of Modern and Contemporary Art, announces the inaugural **Art Critics Forum** to take place during the fifth annual exposition (September 22 – 25, 2016). The Forum will highlight significant issues in arts journalism today, bringing together leading national and international critics to discuss topics amongst their colleagues and peers. Led by *ARTnews* Editor-in-Chief **Sarah Douglas**, “Transparency | Opacity”—the overarching theme of the inaugural discussion—will feature a series of short presentations by *ArtReview* and *ArtReview Asia* Editor-in-Chief **Mark Rappolt**, *Spike Art Quarterly* Editor **Kolja Reichert**, *BLOUIN ART + AUCTION* Editor-at-Large **Judd Tully** and *Ran Dian* Editor **Iona Whittaker**, followed by a roundtable discussion. The featured symposium will address whether or not, in the age of social media, publishers cater to what readers want, more so than what they might actually need. Focusing on “consumer-centric” journalism, the discussion will consider the quality of art journalism in the age of the art market. Stemming from the Chicago Art Critics Forum hosted by THE SEEN, Chicago’s International Journal of Contemporary and Modern Art, in Fall 2015, the forum is a closed discussion amongst accredited press of the exposition.

“The consumer-centric phenomenon, in which we live in today, is intensified on the visual art beat where coverage of art increasingly means coverage of the market,” said **Douglas**. “This forum has assembled some of the greatest voices in arts criticism to discuss this issue that is at the forefront of all arts journalism. To what extent do critics need to forge a connection with readers through social media? What is involved in producing quality journalism in the age of the art market, a subject known for its opacity? ‘Transparency | Opacity’ aims to address these questions amongst colleagues and peers who are affected the most by this ever-changing industry.”

The Art Critics Forum, open to accredited press only, will take place Friday, September 23 | 2 p.m. in the 300 Level Rooms of Navy Pier’s Festival Hall. For accreditation information, please visit [epochicago.com/media-room](http://epochicago.com/media-room).

**About the Panelists**

**Sarah Douglas** is the current Editor-in-Chief of *ARTnews* and has been an art journalist and editor for numerous publications for over 15 years. She was previously the Culture Editor at *The*

*New York Observer* and launched their visual art site *GalleristNY*. Douglas has contributed to *The New York Times Style Magazine*, *New York Magazine* online, *The Art Newspaper's* daily art fair editions at Frieze, Art Basel and Art Basel Miami Beach, *The Economist's* quarterly *Intelligent Life* and *The National*, among others. In 2013, Douglas was the recipient of ArtTable's New Leadership award.

**Mark Rappolt** is the Editor-in-Chief of *ArtReview* (since 1949) and *ArtReview Asia*, which he co-founded in 2013. His writing has appeared in a number of newspapers, magazines and journals, and includes catalogue essays on Slater Bradley, Alex Katz, David Cronenberg and Bharti Kher. Books include monographs on the architects Greg Lynn and Frank Gehry.

**Kolja Reichert** served as the art critic, author and editor of *Spike Art Quarterly* from 2014 – March 2016 and in July 2016, will take on a new role as editor of *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, where he will be co-responsible for the art section. His essays, reviews and interviews have been published in magazines including *frieze d/e*, *art* and *Art in America*, and in newspapers such as *Welt am Sonntag*, *Die Zeit*, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, *Süddeutsche Zeitung* and *Der Tagesspiegel*. In 2012, Reichert was awarded the Preis für Kunstkritik (Prize for Art Criticism) by the Art Cologne and the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Deutscher Kunstvereine (Association of German Kunstvereine). He has most recently published articles on the work of Franz Erhard Walther, Renzo Martens, Michael Schmidt, Ryan Trecartin, Lina Bo Bardi and Kraftwerk. Currently, Reichert is exploring the changing media-related conditions of the production and reception of art as a result of digitalization and what he refers to as the “celebritive turn,” or the merging of the artwork, artist and context in the economy of presence.

**Judd Tully** is the Editor-at-Large and Contributor to *ART + AUCTION* and its web platform *BLOUIN ART INFO*. Tully has been frequently interviewed by *BBC Radio* and *CNN* and has made numerous cameos in documentary films as an authority on the art market. He is also the chairman of the New York based Reuben Kadish Art Foundation, dedicated to promoting the legacy of Reuben Kadish.

An art critic and editor, **Iona Whittaker** lived and worked in Beijing from 2009 – 2014 and is now based in New York where she is the Editor at *Ran Dian*, the only independent magazine for creative culture founded in China. Her writing also appears in *ArtReview*, *Frieze*, *Flash Art*, *Artforum*, *Art in America*, *LEAP*, *Surface* and *The Art Newspaper*, among others. Catalogue texts include Liu Xiaodong and Qiu Xiaofei. Whittaker was Managing Editor at *Rhizome*, linked with the New Museum in New York, from 2014 – 2016.

About EXPO CHICAGO

**EXPO CHICAGO/2016**, The International Exposition of Contemporary and Modern Art, is presented by Art Expositions, LLC. Now in its fifth year as a leading international art fair, EXPO CHICAGO (Sept. 22 – 25, 2016) is a four-day art event featuring more than 140 leading international galleries and offering diverse programming including **/Dialogues**, **IN/SITU**, **IN/SITU Outside**, **EXPO VIDEO** and the **Curatorial Forum**. In addition, EXPO CHICAGO continues to publish **THE SEEN**, Chicago's International Journal of Contemporary & Modern Art, following the first printed edition, which launched during the 2015 exposition. Under the leadership of President and Director Tony Karman, EXPO CHICAGO draws upon the city's rich history as a vibrant international cultural destination, while highlighting the region's contemporary arts community and inspiring its collector base. Vernissage, the opening night preview benefiting the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, takes place Thursday, Sept 22, 6 – 9 p.m. General Admission to the exposition is Friday, Sept. 23 – Sunday, Sept. 25 (for hours please visit

epochicargo.com). Tickets to the exposition are \$20 for one day, \$30 for three days. Northern Trust is the Presenting Sponsor of EXPO CHICAGO. For more information about EXPO CHICAGO and EXPO ART WEEK (Monday Sept. 19 – Sunday Sept. 25), visit [epochicargo.com](http://epochicargo.com).

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