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Social & Political Relevance – A Call for Entries

2017 *FL3TCH3R Exhibit* to accept submissions through Aug. 22,
keeping alive a legacy of commentary, activism through art

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn. – In its fifth year, the *FL3TCH3R Exhibit: Social and Politically Engaged Art* will be on display at East Tennessee State University's Reece Museum Oct. 9 to Dec. 15. The directors of the 2017 exhibit have issued their Call for Entries to artists through Aug. 22, 2017.

New this year is an audio/sound category, says Barbara Dyer, co-founder and co-director of the annual visual art exhibit. Other categories include ceramics, digital, fiber, glass, graphic design, jewelry/metals, mixed media (2D), mixed media (3D), painting, performance/installation (via video), photography, printmaking, sculpture, video/film and other.

A non-refundable fee of \$40 is required for submission of up to three entries. Artists may submit entries in excess of three for an additional \$10 per artwork/title. Artists should submit entries online or consult the prospectus, which can be found at <http://www.FL3TCH3Rexhibit.com/downloads/prospectus.pdf>. The extended deadline, with an additional fee, is Aug. 31, 2017.

The exhibit offers four main cash awards – a Best of Show Award; two Awards of Excellence; the Reece Museum Award; and the Sammie L. Nicely Appalachian Artist Award, in memory of Nicely, who was artist-in-residence at Reece Museum in 2014 and 2015 and died in May 2015.

Entries for the 2017 *FL3TCH3R Exhibit* will be selected by illustrator/painter Anita Kunz, a visual artist whose work has made her one of *The National Post's* 50 most influential women in Canada and whose magazine covers for *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Time*, *Rolling Stone*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Vanity Fair* and *Fortune* and jacket covers for more than 50 books have reached readers the world-round.

Kunz's magazine covers have illustrated the arts, politics and politicians, the military, athletics, religion, the environment, social issues and finance, as well as featuring celebrities, including Michael Jackson, John Belushi, Woody Allen, Mike Tyson and leaders such as Marion Barry, Bill Clinton, George Bush and Donald Trump.

“We are very pleased and excited to announce Anita Kunz as our 2017 juror,” says Barbara Dyer. “She is an internationally renowned artist and illustrator. We believe she will bring a diverse perspective to the selection process and her own work certainly speaks of her interest in and grasp of social and political issues worldwide.”

Established in memory of Barbara and Wayne Dyer’s son, Fletcher, a BFA senior at ETSU who passed away in 2009 in a motorcycle accident, the *FL3TCH3R* international juried exhibit focuses on work with strong social and/or political content. *FL3TCH3R Exhibit* entries “should reflect current issues that affect contemporary culture and investigate societal and political concerns,” the exhibit website says.

In addition to providing an opportunity for socially relevant expression, the *FL3TCH3R Exhibit* supports the annual Fletcher H. Dyer Memorial Scholarship for an ETSU Art & Design student.

“The exhibit was created to honor the legacy of our son who was passionate about incorporating social and political concerns as commentary in his artwork,” says co-founder and co-director Wayne Dyer, a faculty member in Art & Design at ETSU. “Fletcher wrote in a high school essay: ‘I might attempt to right political, social and religious wrongs by showing the rest of society a glimpse of how I feel about serious issues in the world ... Hopefully the awareness that I can help create will spark an interest in a movement that others will follow.’ ”

2015 *FL3TCH3R Exhibit* artist Wessam Mazhar Haddad says, “Fletcher truly never died. His legacy lives in the reincarnation of the works created by our hearts and minds as artists.”

Interest has indeed been sparked. In the four years of the exhibit, nearly 1,500 entries have been considered from 17 countries, including the U.S.

“Each year, we think the exhibit is the best yet, we find that the following exhibit, is extraordinary in its own right,” Barbara Dyer says.

These artists have shared their enthusiasm for the socially engaged framework for their art and the opportunities for conversation, as well as reflection. “Thank you for all your care and your part in keeping the critical social justice movement alive and active,” says Vicki Gunter, a 2016 *FL3TCH3R* artist. “The world needs you now more than ever.”

For more information about Fletcher Dyer, visit <http://fletcherdyer.com/about.html>. For more information about the exhibit and submissions, visit <http://www.FL3TCH3Rexhibit.com>.