

# MEDIA

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**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS ANNOUNCED FOR  
THE 27TH INTERNATIONAL SCULPTURE CONFERENCE  
OCTOBER 25-28, 2017 | KANSAS CITY, MO**

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(Hamilton, NJ) **The International Sculpture Center** is pleased to announce artist Willie Cole and curator Patterson Sims as the keynote speakers for the **27th International Sculpture Conference: *Intersections + Identities*** being held in Kansas City, MO from October 25-28, 2017. **Willie Cole** will join **Patterson Sims** in conversation at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art on Friday, October 27, 2017.

Willie Cole's work has been the subject of several one-person museum exhibitions: Montclair Art Museum (2006), University of Wyoming Art Museum (2006), the Tampa Museum of Art (2004), Miami Art Museum (2001), Bronx Museum of the Arts (2001) and the Museum of Modern Art, New York (1998). Several of his sculptures were included in "*Reconfiguring an African Icon: Odes to the Mask by Modern and Contemporary Artists from Three Continents*," which opened in March 2011 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. In 2010, a survey exhibition of his work on paper (1975-2010) took place at the James Gallery of the Graduate Center of the City University of New York and later traveled to the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, the Sarah Moody Gallery of Art at the University of Alabama and the Rowan University Art Gallery in Glassboro, NJ. In January 2013, *Complex Conversations: Willie Cole Sculptures and Wall Works* opened at Albertine Monroe-Brown Gallery at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. For Willie's full biography, [click here](#).

Patterson Sims has held several positions in the visual arts. His concentration has been in the modern and contemporary field with a specialty in American modernism and contemporary art along with non-profit arts institution and museum management and administration. He currently works with the Saul Steinberg Foundation and the Leon Polk Smith Foundation, as well as consulting, lecturing, writing, and organizing exhibitions. He is currently Co-Chair of the Board of Trustees of Independent Curators International (ICI). Sims is the author of publications on Willie Cole, Richard Estes, Ellsworth Kelly, Jan Matulka, Philip Pearlstein, Joyce J. Scott, and Fred Wilson and the highlights of the collection of the Whitney Museum of American Art. He has written on numerous other artists including Viola Frey, Lavern Kelley Fanny Sanin, Betty Woodman, and on the public sculpture fabricator Lippincott, Inc. For Patterson's full biography, [click here](#).

**Registration is open now till September 28, 2017** to ISC members, non-members, students, and all those with an interest in sculpture. This four-day conference will bring together an audience of artists, educators, arts administrators, museum directors, collectors, patrons, students, and sculpture enthusiasts. Conference programs will include the annual ISC littleSCULPTURE show; ARTSlams and mentor sessions; engaging panel discussions at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art; opening reception and artist studio tours at Studios Inc.; the 2017 ISC Student Awards Exhibition at Belger Crane Yard Studios; the keynote address; and optional art and culture trips. Pre- and post-conference tours, activities, and hands-on workshops in collaboration with the Kansas City Art Institute, Zahner, Wickerson Studios and the University of Kansas, and more will be held October 24th and October 29th.

This year's conference will feature panels on a diverse selection of engaging topics, featuring artists and professionals. Topics for this year's panels include, *Biomorphic Form - Design / Planning/ Fabrication*; *Personal Patina*; *Strategies for Sustainable Practice*; *Indigenous Sculptors Respond: Indigenous (hi)Story, Land and "Belonging" in an Era of Anti-Immigration*; *Material Poetics*; *Hold It Better, Release It Carefully: Object Lessons on Water and Belonging*; *Defining Pressure: Examining the State of Objects in Contemporary Making*; and more.

More details about the conference and other ISC events are available on the ISC website at [www.sculpture.org/kc2017](http://www.sculpture.org/kc2017), by connecting with the conference on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ISCsculpturecon](https://www.facebook.com/ISCsculpturecon), or by contacting the ISC Events Department at [events@sculpture.org](mailto:events@sculpture.org).

Collaborators and sponsors for the 27th International Sculpture Conference include: Architectural Building Systems, Belger Arts Center, Belger Crane Yard Studios, Charlotte Street Foundation, City of Lawrence, Kansas City Art Institute, KU School of the Arts, Lawrence Arts Center, Monarch Glass Studio, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Overland Park Arboretum & Botanical Gardens, Spencer Museum of Art, Studios Inc., University of Kansas, Visit KC, Wickerson Studios, and Zahner. This program is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts and by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The **International Sculpture Center (ISC)** is a member-supported, nonprofit organization founded in 1960 to champion the creation and understanding of sculpture and its unique, vital contribution to society. Members include sculptors, collectors, patrons, architects, developers, journalists, curators, historians, critics, educators, foundries, galleries, and museums-anyone with an interest in and commitment to the field of sculpture. Please visit [www.sculpture.org](http://www.sculpture.org) for further details.

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