



Prospect.2: Canvassing the City

by D. Eric Bookhardt
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Battle Royal by Alexis Rockman

Prospect.2, the long anticipated successor to the critically acclaimed Prospect.1 international contemporary art biennial, opens on Oct. 22, and runs through Jan. 29, 2012. While a tad more modest in scope than Prospect.1, Prospect.2 offers up a similar mix of established and cutting-edge international art stars, and it will introduce visitors to this city's unique culture and dynamic arts community.

The roster of 27 national and international luminaries includes artists such as Sophie Calle, Nick Cave, Jonas Dahlberg, William Eggleston, Nicole Eisenman, Ragnar Kjartansson, An-My Le, Alexis Rockman and Francesco Vezzoli, coming from nine countries including France, Italy, Sweden, Poland, Japan, Chile and Vietnam. Several local artists also are included.

Beyond its intriguing mix of new and traditional media, this year's biennial also features a variety of site-specific projects conceived specifically for the city New Orleans. New York-based composer and new-media artist R. Luke DuBois opens Prospect.2 with a performance piece, *The Marigny Parade*, featuring nearly 350 musicians from such local institutions as the St. Augustine High School Marching 100 band.

Like its predecessor, Prospect.2 uses numerous scattered exhibition sites that encourage visitors to explore host neighborhoods such as Treme, St. Claude, Uptown, City Park and the Warehouse District. There also is a satellite venue in Lafayette featuring Milan-based video artist Grazia Toderi.

Despite the challenges of assembling such a large-scale endeavor in a climate of global economic constraint, Prospect founding director Dan Cameron remains undaunted. "We look forward to once again drawing the art world's creative energy to the Gulf region, and continuing to support the flourishing visual arts community of New Orleans," Cameron says.

For more information, visit www.prospectneworleans.org.