

# VOLTA NY

NEW YORK  
MARCH 7-11  
2018

## Announcing The Baha Mar Art Prize

presented by The Current

**NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 16, 2018:** VOLTA NY, in partnership with **The Current** at **Baha Mar**, the gallery, exhibition, and studio spaces within the newly-opened luxury Bahamian resort, is proud to announce the inaugural **Baha Mar Art Prize**. Debuting at **VOLTA NY 2018** at **PIER 90**, this multifaceted award will feature an acquisition by an artist exhibiting at the fair, which will join **The Current's** 2,500-piece permanent collection, as well as a 6-8 week residency for the artist in Nassau, New Providence. The prize and residency will be announced on **Thursday, March 8 at 2 PM**.

**Baha Mar's** Creative Arts Director, **John Cox**, is a longtime feature of the Bahamian arts scene, his career having spanned several decades and functions: a graduate of RISD, he is practicing artist, former art professor at now-University of The Bahamas, former Chief Curator of The National Art Gallery of The Bahamas, and founder of Popopstudios International Center for Contemporary Art (a 4-time VOLTA exhibitor). In his new role he aims to continue expanding his support and reach of Bahamian art, seeing opportunities for the creation of meaningful international dialogues, *"Having been an exhibitor at VOLTA with the artist-run space, it's been very evident to us what an important platform VOLTA is. Our artists and cultural practitioner have — in just 4-5 days — been able to forge valuable relationships and we thought, what if we could extend those relationships by inviting artists to spend more time in our own environment?"*

**VOLTA** Artistic Director **Amanda Coulson** adds: *"With the Caribbean becoming an increasingly recognized player on the global world stage — with artists such as Ebony G. Patterson, Tavares Strachan, Nari Ward, Lavar Munroe — and as a person from the region myself, we felt it was important to use our platforms to create connections that would benefit the artists' community, as well as be an incredible experience for an international artist. Similar to other endeavors — such as the **Davidoff Art Initiative** — the award aims to create dialogue and exchange between artists of the Caribbean and the Global North, that will change the perception of our art scenes worldwide."*

**The Current** champions both emerging and seasoned artists within The Bahamas and, increasingly so, within and beyond the greater Caribbean. Operating as an interdisciplinary hub, **The Current** features regular exhibitions, as well as workshops and discussions with the community, partnerships with a local collector base, and an artist-in-residence program. This serious commitment to identifying and championing artists from within and beyond the Caribbean reflects a major investment by **Baha Mar** in new commissions for the resort's hotels and conference centre, as well as

for **The Current's** exhibition space.

This first **Baha Mar Art Prize** honors both the work of the selected artist with the residency and inclusion in the permanent collection and the efforts of that artist's gallery in nurturing their career and supporting them at **VOLTA NY** through the acquisition. Likewise, the acquisition represents a strong advancement in **The Current's** track toward delivering international artists into the fold of its increasingly broad permanent collection and sharing this world-class experience to their visitors.

**VOLTA NY 2018** at **PIER 90** runs from March 7 – 11, 2018. The venue may be reached by public transportation via the Eighth Avenue line (E or C trains to 50 St), as well as direct shuttle between **VOLTA NY** and **Pier 94: The Armory Show**. Additionally, PIER 90 is connected by an elevated, covered and heated passageway to **Pier 92: The Armory Show**.

**VOLTA** was founded in Basel in 2005 by dealers Kavi Gupta (Chicago), Friedrich Loock (Berlin), and Ulrich Voges (Frankfurt/Main). **VOLTA14** in Basel will coincide with **Art Basel Week** from June 13 – 18, 2018.

## Essential Information:

### **DATES //**

March 7–11, 2018

### **LOCATION //**

PIER 90, 12th Avenue (at West 50th Street)  
New York, NY 10019

### **PRESS CONTACT //**

Brian Fee  
VOLTA Communication Manager  
[brian@voltashow.com](mailto:brian@voltashow.com)

Amani Olu, Olu & Company  
[amani@olucompany.com](mailto:amani@olucompany.com)

### **TIMES //**

PRESS PREVIEW:  
Wednesday, March 7  
4 – 6 pm  
Public Vernissage  
6 – 9 pm

### **PUBLIC HOURS:**

Thursday – Saturday, March 8 – 10  
12 – 8 pm  
Sunday, March 11  
12 – 5 pm