

VOLTA NEW YORK 2019

VOLTA Announces Key Partnership with the National Academy

NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 27, 2018: VOLTA is pleased to announce a partnership with **The National Academy of Design (NAD)**. This collaboration actualizes as intimate public gatherings at the New York fair, and it advocates for the fair's social reach. **National Academicians**, the NAD's artist and architect honorary members, provide insight for fair visitors on the themes of influence by engaging in dialogue, exhibiting video works, and supporting the **VOLTA Cares** initiative. Programming and participating Academicians will be announced in January.

Founded in 1825 by Thomas Cole, Samuel B. Morse, Asher B. Durand, and others, the Academy's simple yet powerful mission is "to promote American art and architecture through exhibition and instruction." Notes **Mary Fisher**, NAD's Interim Executive Director, "*The National Academy is proud to partner with VOLTA to promote artists and support the next generation of creative minds.*"

VOLTA has a history of collaboration with National Academicians, who now number 450 living members, with over 2,300 elected since the Academy's founding. These notable Academicians include **Hank Willis Thomas** (NA 2018), featured in VOLTA's 2016 Salon Series, and **Mickalene Thomas** (NA 2016), who co-organized the fair's 2018 Curated Section. For VOLTA New York 2019, the inclusion of key pieces from the NAD's permanent collection will add a layer of depth and context regarding American art history for fair visitors.

"Education has always been a goal of ours, from the entire context of the New York platform — immersive solo projects by emerging or underrepresented international artists — to the navigation of our fairs — focused and approachable for both veteran and nascent collectors," adds **Amanda Coulson**, VOLTA Artistic Director. *"As such, I look forward to this first collaboration with the National Academy. Its rich cultural scholarship and lineage of Academician mentors promotes creativity, accessibility, and inclusion — qualities we strive for in every VOLTA edition."*

VOLTA NEW YORK 2019

About

Founded in 1825 by a group of artists and architects, **the National Academy of Design (NAD)** is an honor system of America's top artists and architects — the National Academicians — and is a presenter of arts and an agent of arts education. Over the decades, the Academy has enriched and educated countless generations of artists and architects while preserving and sharing the work of the National Academicians with the public.

VOLTA New York is a contemporary art fair comprised of solo projects by leading and emerging international artists. The American incarnation of the original Basel VOLTA show, VOLTA New York has since its 2008 debut operated as a beacon for creative discovery and social engagement during Armory Arts Week. VOLTA New York returns to PIER 90, adjacent to The Armory Show, from March 6 – 10, 2019.

VOLTA Cares was initiated in 2018 as a multitiered social programming outreach by the New York fair to more meaningfully connect with all levels of cultural purveyors, from public school students to patron collectors.

###

