



SUMMER SCHOOL

Exhibition Dates: June 9 – August 12, 2016
Opening Reception: Thursday, June 9, 6-8PM
The FLAG Art Foundation, 545 West 25th Street, NY

“...might children respond better to art that does not speak down to them
but rather presents itself simply, to people of all ages?”¹

John Baldessari
Gina Beavers
Dan Colen
Will Cotton
Jennifer Dalton
Tara Donovan
Awol Erizku

Tom Friedman
Genevieve Gaignard
Felix Gonzalez-Torres
Mark Grotjahn
Alex Israel
Steven and William Ladd
Tony Matelli

Marilyn Minter
Vik Muniz
Charles Ray
Ugo Rondinone
Robert Therrien
Tim Rollins and K.O.S.
Tom Sachs

The FLAG Art Foundation is pleased to present *Summer School*, on its 9th floor gallery from **June 9 – August 12, 2016**. This expansive group exhibition highlights artists who ignite our imagination through fantasy, humor, and play. Accompanying educational programming will include artist-led workshops, tours, and events, created with and driven by the interests of children and their families.

The artworks in *Summer School* resonate across generational lines. “Creative Thinker,” **John Baldessari**’s dual-tone proclamation, and **Alex Israel**’s dreamy, Disneyland-inspired self-portrait, set the tone for the exhibition in which everyday ideas are transformed into extraordinary objects of wonder: **Robert Therrien**’s wonky tower of giant plates; **Awol Erizku**’s stacked basketball hoops slyly nodding to minimalist sculpture; **Tara Donovan**’s dizzying and seemingly endless wall-mounted Slinky® maze; **Gina Beavers**’s thick, impasto painting of psychedelic soft serve ice cream; and **Ugo Rondinone**’s monumental suspended lightbulb, colored to represent the light of the thirteenth hour of the day. Other works contain complex, internal systems of logic that are more participatory in their nature: **Tom Sachs**’s riddle and game board, which logs all attempts to play it; **Tim Rollins**’s collaborative work with members of **K.O.S.** (Kids of Survival), wherein organic patterns obscure Darwin’s *Origin of Species*; **Jennifer Dalton**’s colorful gumball sculpture; and **Felix Gonzalez-Torres**’s interactive and shimmering pile of patriotic red, white, and blue candy.

Summer School asserts that art can serve as a platform for children to develop critical and creative thinking, and early exposure can lead to a lifelong interest in art. Leading up to the exhibition, FLAG invited fourth grade students from **Harlem Children’s Zone**, a pioneering nonprofit organization in Central Harlem, to explore their relationship to art and creativity through a participatory Q&A. Humorous, incisive, and honest, their responses form an inclusive conversation around the themes of the exhibition: **Are you an artist?** *Yes, because art makes me feel creative and awesome.* (Niya, age 10); **How is art a part of your life?** *Art is a part of my life because I love expressing myself by pictures and drawings.* (Maki, age 11); **What is your favorite color?** *My favorite color is red because I have confidence, anger, and strength.* (Baba, age 11). This Q&A, which also includes a drawing component, will be made available to students and children throughout the course of the exhibition, with the aim to expose new ways of engaging and creating dialogue with art.

¹ Shafaieh, Charles. “Tilt: A New Arts Festival That Talk Up to Kids.” *BLOUIN ARTINFO*. March 25, 2016.

The FLAG Art Foundation is a non-profit contemporary arts institution, founded by art patron Glenn Fuhrman in 2008. Its objective is to encourage the appreciation of contemporary art among a diverse audience. FLAG organizes four to six exhibitions a year with range of curators, as well as producing public programs and catalogues. Past curators include Chuck Close, Lisa Dennison, Eric Fischl, Louis Grachos, Prabal Gurung, Jim Hodges, Shaquille O’Neal, Linda Yablonsky, among others. To date, FLAG has hosted over 40 curated exhibitions, providing a platform for over 400 international established and emerging artists.

FLAG provides a unique educational environment in which visitors can view, contemplate, and engage in active dialogue with the artworks. FLAG is also a resource that facilitates loans of contemporary artworks to museums around the world. An extensive database of available works is maintained and made available to curators.

FLAG is free to the public and located on the 9th and 10th floors of the Chelsea Arts Tower, in the heart of New York’s art district on 25th Street between 10th and 11th Avenues. Its state-of-the-art exhibition space was designed by noted architect Richard Gluckman.

Join the conversation online and follow FLAG’s Instagram (@flagartfoundation) and Twitter (@FLAGartNYC), and use the #FLAGSummerSchool hashtag when posting.