Arts, Culture and Quality of Life in Global Cities

Monday, December 9, 2013
9:00am – 5:30pm
Reception to Follow

Ford Foundation
320 East 43rd Street, New York, NY 10017

Organizers:

Vishakha N. Desai, Special Advisor for Global Affairs at Columbia University
Kate D. Levin, Commissioner for the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs
Saskia Sassen, Co-Chair, Committee On Global Thought at Columbia University
Roberta Uno, Senior Program Officer, Ford Foundation
Agenda

9:00 - 9:30 Welcome Remarks: Roberta Uno, Saskia Sassen and Kate D. Levin
Introduction of participants, introduction of the program

9:30 – 10:15 **Session I: Defining healthy cultural environment in global cities**

Why does it matter to have a healthy arts and cultural environment in global cities undergoing constant change? How do we define success in developing cultural strategy beyond economics, and for whom? What are the barriers in developing a successful system?

Moderator: Vasif Kortun
Presenters: Saskia Sassen, Dinh Q. Le

Discussion among participants

10:15 - 10:30 **Session II: Assessing the impact**

How do we measure the impact of arts and culture on the quality of life of all citizens? What are the most important criteria in evaluating a successful program?

Moderator: Geoffrey Crossick
Presenters: Mark Stern, Christophe Girard

10:30 - 11:00 Discussion

11:00 – 11:15 Break

11:15 – 12:00 **Session III: Public/Private Partnership in developing a healthy cultural ecology**

What is an appropriate role for the private sector in developing cultural ecology for a City? How should the for-profit sector engage and work with the city governments as well as artistic communities? What are the risks in such a partnership?

Moderator: Susan Freedman
Presenters: Maria Nicanor, Sergio Sa Leitao

Discussion among participants
12:00 – 1:00 **Session IV: Arts and culture for an Equitable City: Access for All**

Often arts and culture are perceived as elitist and not connected with less privileged communities such as new immigrants or those who live on the edges of affluence. However, culture can be central to the formation of identity for the same group of people.

What are the ways that creativity and cultural production become a key part of creating an equitable city? How might this differ in different cultural contexts?

Moderator: Carol Becker
Presenters: Stephen Hobbs, Teddy Cruz

Discussion among participants

1:00 - 2:00 Lunch

2:00 - 2:10 **Session V: Developing criteria for a successful arts and culture strategy for all, identifying barriers and next steps**

Moderator: Vishakha N. Desai

2:10 - 2:45 Breakout group discussion

2:45 - 3:00 Reports to the whole group

3:00 - 3:15 Concluding thoughts: Kate D. Levin, Roberta Uno and Vishakha Desai

3:30 – 5:30 **Session VI: Public Session: Arts, Culture and quality of Life: Creating Equitable Cities for the Future**

Welcome Remarks: Darren Walker and Saskia Sassen
Introduction: Kate D. Levin
Panelists: Kathy Halbreich, Tom Finkelpearl, Joe Hall, Maurine Knighton
Moderator: Vishakha N. Desai

Four minute presentations by Kathy Halbreich, Tom Finkelpearl, and Joe Hall

A brief presentation focused on the following questions:

How do we measure the impact of a robust cultural strategy in NYC?
What is the role of artists, curators and private sector in developing a healthy cultural sector?

Discussion with the panelists

Responses from international participants: Teddy Cruz, Rajeev Thakker (from the audience)

Audience discussion, closing remarks

5:30 - 6:30 Closing Reception
Confirmed Attendees

i. **Artists**
   1. Paul Ramirez Jonas – Artist (US/South America)
   2. Dinh Q. Le – Artist (Vietnam/US)
   3. Helen Marriage – Artichoke UK (UK/London)

ii. **Architects/Planners**
   4. Rajeev Thakker – Director, Studio X Mumbai (India/Mumbai)
   5. Nora Akawi – Director, Studio X Jordan (Jordan/Amman)
   6. Teddy Cruz (US/UC San Diego)

iii. **Curators/Cultural Organizers**
   7. Kathy Halbreich – MoMA (US)
   8. Susan Freedman – Public Art Fund NYC (US)
   9. Maria Nicanor – Guggenheim (US/Spain)
  10. Stephen Hobbs (South Africa/Johannesburg)
  11. Bill Bragin – Lincoln Center (US)
  12. Vasif Kortun – SALT (Turkey/Istanbul)
  13. Geoffrey Crossick (UK/University of London)
  14. Tom Finkelppearl – Queens Museum (US)

iv. **Scholars/Academics**
   15. Saskia Sassen (US/Columbia University)
   16. Carol Becker – Dean of School of Arts (US/Columbia University)
   17. Mark Stern (US/University of Pennsylvania)
   18. Vishakha N. Desai (US/Columbia University)
   19. Reinhold Martin (US/Columbia University)
   20. Sudhir Venkatesh (US/Columbia University)

v. **Policy Makers/Government Officials**
   21. Sergio Sa Leitao - Secretary of Culture (South America/Rio de Janeiro)
   22. Kate D. Levin – Commissioner, DCA (US/NYC DCA)
   23. Christophe Girard – Mayor of 4th Arrondissement (France/Paris)

vi. **Private Sector/Foundations**
   24. Roberta Uno – Ford Foundation (US/NYC)

vii. **Community Based Organizations**
   27. Marcus Faustini (South America/Rio de Janeiro)
   28. Joe Hall – Ghetto Film School (US)
   29. Fonna Forman (US/UC San Diego)
Participant Biographies

Bill Bragin
Director of Public Programming
Lincoln Center

Mr. Bragin oversees the Midsummer Night Swing and Lincoln Center Out of Doors festivals, and programs free events at the David Rubenstein Atrium. Previously, Bragin presented more than 3,000 concerts as Director of Joe's Pub at The Public Theater. At the Public, he also initiated the Tony award-winning rock musical "Passing Strange" by Stew, which transferred to Broadway and then premiered as a film by Spike Lee.

He was music curator at Symphony Space, programmed five seasons of Central Park SummerStage. Bragin began his career in 1985, programming the Alternative Concert Series at Haverford and Bryn Mawr Colleges.

In 1999, he founded Acidophilus: Live & Active Cultures, an arts consulting service working with such clients as the TED Conferences, Lincoln Center Festival and choreographers Susan Marshall, Ben Munisteri and Wally Cardona. Bragin serves as a board member of the Association of Performing Arts Presenters.
Carol Becker is Dean of Columbia University School of the Arts where she has also been Professor of the Arts since 2007. Becker was previously Dean of Faculty and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago from 1994-2007 where she was also professor of Liberal Arts. She earned her B.A. in English from State University of New York at Buffalo and her Ph.D. in English and American literature from the University of California, San Diego.

With research interests that range from feminist theory, American cultural history and the education of artists, to South African art and politics, she has published numerous articles and books of cultural criticism including: *The Invisible Drama: Women and the Anxiety of Change* (translated into seven languages); *The Subversive Imagination: Artists, Society and Social Responsibility*; *Zones of Contention: Essays on Art, Institutions, Gender, and Anxiety*; and *Surpassing the Spectacle: Global Transformations and the Changing Politics of Art*. Her latest book *Thinking in Place: Art, Action and Cultural Production* was published in 2008 by Paradigm Press. She lectures extensively in the U.S. and abroad and is the recipient of numerous awards.
Christophe Girard
Mayor of the 4th district of Paris

Deputy of Mayor Bertrand Delanoë since 2001 – re-elected in 2008 –, Elected Mayor of the 4th district in 2012, Christophe Girard has launched several major cultural projects, including the well-known “Nuit Blanche”. He benefits from a long and sound experience working for the fashion industry, for instance as head of the LVMH fashion and leather craft strategy department. He also is a documentary film co-producer as well as a writer, since he published three books (a novel: *La Défaillance des Pudeurs*, an essay about homosexual parenting entitled *Père comme les autres*, and *Le Petit Livre Rouge de la Culture*).

He sits in several boards of directors including those of various higher education, academic, cultural and medical institutions (Centre national d'art et de culture Georges Pompidou, Musée d'Art et d'Histoire du Judaïsme, Foundation for Arts Initiative, CENTQUATRE, Université Paris VIII, Hôtel-Dieu, Hôpital Sainte Anne…). Besides, he is a wine producer in southern France (Gigondas, Côtes du Rhône).
Dinh Q. Lê
Artist and Co-founder & Chairman of the Board of San Art
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Dinh Q. Lê was born in Ha-Tien, Vietnam. He received his BA in Art studio at UC Santa Barbara and his MFA in Photography and Related Media at The School of Visual Arts in New York City. In 1994, Lê returned to Vietnam and in 1997 Lê settled down in Ho Chi Minh City.

Besides being an artist, Lê also co-founded Vietnam Art Foundation-VNFA based in Los Angeles, an organization that supports Vietnamese artists and promotes artistic exchange between cultural workers from Vietnam and around the world. Through funding from VNFA, Lê co-founded San Art, the most active not for profit gallery in Vietnam. He is currently on the Arts Network Asia Peer Panel, board member of Danish Embassy’s Cultural Development and Exchange Fund (CDEF) in Hanoi, Asia Society Global Council, and Guggenheim Asian Council. In 2010, Lê was awarded the Visual Art Laureate, Prince Claus Fund, Amsterdam.
Fonna Forman
Associate Professor of Political Science
Ph.D. University of Chicago 2001
Political Theory

Fonna Forman is a political theorist best known for her revisionist work on Adam Smith, recuperating the ethical and public dimensions of his political economy. Current work focuses on theories and practices of global justice as they manifest at the local scale, and the role of civic engagement and cross-sector collaboration in strategies of progressive urban reform.

Fonna is associate professor of political theory at the University of California, San Diego, where she is founding co-director the Center on Global Justice and the Blum Cross-Border Initiative. She is also special advisor on Urban and Public Initiatives for the City of San Diego, leading the development of its new Civic Innovation Lab.
Professor Geoffrey Crossick is Director of the Arts & Humanities Research Council’s Cultural Value Project and Distinguished Professor of Humanities in the School of Advanced Study of the University of London. Until July 2012 he was Vice-Chancellor of the University of London, having previously been Warden of Goldsmiths, University of London. Until 2002 he was Professor of History at the University of Essex, where he held various senior management positions. He then served as Chief Executive of the Arts and Humanities Research Board, which he led through its successful transformation into a full Arts and Humanities Research Council before joining Goldsmiths in 2005.
Helen Marriage is a co-director of Artichoke, which she founded with Nicky Webb in 2005. Her previous work has included a seven-year period as Director of the Salisbury Festival which she transformed from a local affair to what The Times described as a ‘miracle of modern British culture’.

Helen went to Salisbury after creating the first Arts & Events programme for the developers of Canary Wharf in London. Prior to that she was an Associate Director of the London International Festival of Theatre. She began her working life with Artsadmin where she managed a variety of independent artists in the early 1980s.
Joe Hall  
President and Founder  
Ghetto Film School

Joe Hall is a social entrepreneur building a national creative education model that uses cinematic storytelling and production training to develop broad-based 21st century skills. In 2000 he founded Ghetto Film School (GFS) in his South Bronx neighborhood, training 650 teens annually through various pre-professional programs including Digital Bodega, an in-house production company.

Joe led a collaborative partnership with the NYC Department of Education to open The Cinema School in 2009 as the nation’s first film high school. His award highlights include 2005 Mayor’s Award for Arts & Culture, and 2011 Rockefeller Foundation residency in Bellagio, Italy.
Jonathan Barzilay
Director, Freedom of Expression Team
Ford Foundation

Jonathan Barzilay is director of the Ford Foundation’s Freedom of Expression team, which includes the foundation’s global work in Media, Arts and Culture, and Religion in the Public Sphere. Jonathan began his career as an attorney specializing in First Amendment issues and spent 25 years in the media sector, holding senior management positions at ABC, CBS and Qualcomm. He is a graduate of Harvard University and Columbia Law School.
Kate D. Levin is the commissioner of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. In this role, she directs cultural policy for New York City, supporting and strengthening nonprofit cultural organizations throughout the five boroughs through public funding, technical assistance and advocacy. Prior to her appointment, Levin taught at the City College of New York/CUNY, worked at several New York City cultural organizations, and served in the Koch administration.
Kathy Halbreich
Associate Director
Museum of Modern Art

Kathy Halbreich joined the Museum of Modern Art in the newly created position of Associate Director in February 2008 to focus on curatorial and strategic issues designed to amplify contemporary programs and initiatives at MoMA and MoMA PS1, both locally and globally. She leads the Contemporary Working Group, a curatorial committee dedicated to contemporary art. She is developing the Museum’s acquisitions of very recent works through the Fund for the 21st Century, oversees research designed to expand curatorial expertise in a more global view of art history, and partners with the Museum’s Director Glenn Lowry on advocacy issues.
Marcus Vinicius Faustini is 42-years-old carioca filmmaker, writer, theater director, cultural activist, creator of the methodology from Agência de Redes para Juventude (The Agency), and the new weekly columnist of the newspaper O GLOBO, where he writes every tuesday about culture, city and behavior. Faz Diferença Award winner (2012), ORILAXÉ Human Rights Award winner (2010), Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Award winner (2012), and Prêmio Shell de Teatro 2012 nominated for inovation with the Home Theatre Festival, Marcus grew up in Cesarão – the biggest housing from Rio de Janeiro, in the district of Santa Cruz, in the west zone of the city.

Also known as Faustini, with a background in theatre and film, he stands out in the cultural scene since 1998. Before that, he had a significant role in the student movement, getting to be vice president of AMES-RJ.
Maria Nicanor
Associate Curator, Architecture and Urbanism
Curator, BMW Guggenheim Lab
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum

Maria Nicanor joined the curatorial staff in October 2005 and now heads the architecture and urbanism initiatives of the Guggenheim Museum. When she first joined the Guggenheim, she worked on several exhibitions, including *Spanish Painting from El Greco to Picasso; Cy Twombly* for the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao; *Frank Lloyd Wright: From Within Outward; Contemplating the Void: Interventions in the Guggenheim Museum*; and *Color Fields* for the Deutsche Guggenheim Berlin.

Nicanor leads the curatorial team of the BMW Guggenheim Lab, an international traveling laboratory for urban experiments and public programs and has recently curated the exhibition *Participatory City: 100 Urban Trends from the BMW Guggenheim Lab*. She has lectured internationally on the future of museums in the twenty-first century and new museum formats that facilitate innovative audience engagement.
Mark J. Stern
Kenneth L.M. Pray Professor of Social Welfare and History
Co-Director, Urban Studies Program
University of Pennsylvania

Mark Stern is the Kenneth L.M. Pray Professor of Social Welfare and History and co-director of the Urban Studies program at the University of Pennsylvania. He has authored or co-authored six books, including *One Nation Divisible: What America Was and What It Is Becoming* (with Michael B. Katz) and *Engaging Social Welfare: An Introduction to Policy Analysis* (2014). Since 1994, Stern has been principal investigator for Penn’s Social Impact of the Arts Project (SIAP). His monograph, “Age and Arts Participation: A Case Against Demographic Destiny,” was published by the National Endowment for the Arts in 2011.
Nora Akawi
Director, Amman Lab
Studio X, Jordan

Nora Akawi studied Architecture at the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, Jerusalem (B.Arch, 2009) and Critical, Curatorial and Conceptual Practices in Architecture at the Graduate School of Architecture Planning and Preservation (GSAPP), Columbia University (MS.CCCP, 2011). Her thesis research focused on the political role of collective archives in the visualization of spatial narratives and in imagining alternative political organization.

She returned to Jerusalem in October 2011 to teach in the Department of Architecture at Bezalel, and with a group of young designers, visual artists and filmmakers co-founded Al-Ma'mal Lab, a shared studio and gallery space in the Old City of Jerusalem. In September 2012 Nora became the Director of the Amman Lab, a node within the Studio-X Global Network run by Columbia University's GSAPP.
Paul Ramírez Jonas
Artist

Paul Ramírez Jonas is an artist based in New York City. His selected solo exhibitions include Pinacoteca do Estado, Sao Paulo, Brazil; The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, Connecticut; The Jack S. Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, Texas; a survey at Ikon Gallery (UK) and Cornerhouse (UK); Solo gallery exhibition at Koenig & Clinton (NYC), Roger Björkholmen (Sweden), Nara Roesler Gallery (Brazil), and Postmasters Gallery (NYC). He has been included in group exhibitions at the Gallery for Contemporary Art Leipzig (Germany); P.S.1 (NYC); The Whitechapel (UK); Irish Museum of Modern Art (Ireland); Künstlerhaus (Austria); The New Museum (NYC); and Kunsthau Zurich (Switzerland).

He participated in the 1st Johannesburg Biennale; the 1st Seoul Biennial; the 6th Shanghai Biennial; the 28th Sao Paulo Biennial; the 53rd Venice Biennial and the 7th Bienal do Mercosul, Porto Alegre, Brazil. In 2010 his Key to the City project was presented by Creative Time in cooperation with the City of New York.
Rajeev Thakker holds a BArch from Syracuse University and a MSAAD from Columbia Universities GSAPP. He moved to Mumbai in 2000 to pursue a career in teaching and has lectured, hosted workshops, and led Architectural Design Studios at institutes like KRVIA and BSSA Schools of Architecture.

He currently runs a design studio called ‘a-RT’ which provides consultancy and design services for architectural and interior projects combining cartographic, architectural and other creative processes (i.e. drawing, painting, and photography). He is also currently Curator for Studio X Mumbai, a platform developed by Columbia Universities GSAPP exploring the future of cities.'
Reinhold Martin  
Associate Professor of Architecture, Planning and Preservation  
Director, Temple Hoyne Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture

Reinhold Martin is Associate Professor of Architecture in the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation at Columbia University, where he directs the PhD program in architecture and the Temple Hoyne Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture. He is a member of Columbia’s Institute for Comparative Literature and Society as well as the Committee on Global Thought.

Martin is a founding co-editor of the journal Grey Room and has published widely on the history and theory of modern and contemporary architecture. He is the author of The Organizational Complex: Architecture, Media, and Corporate Space (MIT Press, 2003), and Utopia’s Ghost: Architecture and Postmodernism, Again (Minnesota, 2010), as well as the co-author, with Kadambari Baxi, of Multi-National City: Architectural Itineraries (Actar, 2007). In 2012, Martin co-curated with Barry Bergdoll “Foreclosed: Rehousing the American Dream,” at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, for which he and Bergdoll also co-edited the exhibition catalog.
Roberta Uno
Senior Program Officer
Ford Foundation

Roberta Uno is Senior Program Officer for Arts and Culture, in the Freedom of Expression unit of the Education, Creativity, and Free Expression program of the Ford Foundation. She headed the development of, and programs the new Arts and Culture initiative in the United States, “Supporting Diverse Arts Spaces”. The initiative is focused on identifying and supporting exemplary facilities-based arts organizations that are national exemplars of artistic excellence, cultural diversity, innovative and equitable space development, and social justice. This initiative is also the focus of Ford Foundation Arts and Culture work in Egypt, and Mexico.

Prior to her arrival at Ford in 2002, she was the founder and Artistic Director of the New WORLD Theater, in residence at the Fine Arts Center at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst and a Professor of directing and dramaturgy in the University’s Department of Theater.
Saskia Sassen
Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology
Co-Chair, Committee On Global Thought

Saskia Sassen’s research and writing focuses on globalization (including social, economic and political dimensions), immigration, global cities (including cities and terrorism), the new technologies, and changes within the liberal state that result from current transnational conditions. Her interests include urban sociology, the sociology of transnational processes and globalization, technology, the dynamics of powerlessness in urban contexts and migration.

In addition to her appointments at Columbia University, Saskia Sassen serves on several editorial boards and is an advisor to several international bodies. She is a Member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and a member of the National Academy of Sciences Panel on Cities. She regular contributes to The Huffington Post, OpenDemocracy, The Guardian, The New York Times, Le Monde Diplomatique, the International Herald Tribune, Newsweek International, and the Financial Times, among others. She serves on the Advisory Committee of Theatrum Mundi.
Sergio Sá Leitão  
Secretary of Cultural Policies  
Ministry of Culture  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

With a graduation in Journalism at Rio's Federal University (UFRJ) and postgraduation degrees in Public Policies and Marketing, Sérgio Sá Leitão is Rio de Janeiro's Secretary of Culture (since December 2012) and RioFilme's CEO (since January 2009). He was a Director at Ancine (Brazilian National Film Agency) from 2007 to 2008 and worked as a consulting advisor specialized in audiovisual and entertainment projects for many companies and institutions in Brazil.

From 2006 to 2007, he supervised at the Brazilian National Development Bank (BNDES) the creation of the Culture Economics Department (now Culture, Entertainment and Services Department) and the Audiovisual Industry Financing Program. He was Head of Cabinet of the former Brazilian Minister of Culture, Mr. Gilberto Gil, and Secretary of Cultural Policies at the Brazilian Ministry of Culture, as well as VP of the Inter-American Culture Commission (ICC-OAS), from 2003 to 2006.
Stephen Hobbs  
Curator and Cultural Organizer

Through an extended practice of urban investigation and experimentation, focused particularly on Johannesburg since 1994, Hobbs has sustained a dialogue with urban space through video, installation, special curated projects and an interrelated approach to photography and sculpture. Hobbs’ particular fascination with the conflicted social and political changes in Johannesburg has resulted in numerous observations on the precarious state of cities undergoing radical physical change.

Stephen Hobbs graduated from Wits University with a BAFA in 1994. He was the curator of the Market Theatre Galleries (Johannesburg) from 1994 to 2000. Since 2001, he has co-directed the artist collaborative and public art specialist - The Trinity Session, The Gallery Premises (closed 2008) at the Joburg Theatre, and since 2004 has coproduced a range of urban and network focused projects, with Marcus Neustetter, under the collaborative name Hobbs/Neustetter.
Sudhir Venkatesh is William B. Ransford Professor of Sociology, and Member of the Committee on Global Thought, at Columbia University in the City of New York.

In addition to several published books and articles, Venkatesh’s editorial writings have appeared in The New York Times, the Chicago Tribune, and the Washington Post. He writes for Slate.com, and his stories have appeared in This American Life, WIRED, and on National Public Radio. His next book, under contract with Penguin Press, will focus on the role of black market economies—from sex work and drug trafficking to day care and entertainment—in the revitalization of New York since 1999.
Susan Freedman is internationally recognized for her vision and ongoing leadership in the field of contemporary public art. As president of Public Art Fund since 1986, Susan has led the organization in bringing some of the most ambitious and engaging public art initiatives to the people of New York City.
Teddy Cruz  
Professor in Public Culture and Urbanism  
University of California, San Diego

Teddy Cruz is known internationally for his urban research on the Tijuana/San Diego border, advancing border neighborhoods as sites of cultural production from which to rethink urban policy, affordable housing, and civic infrastructure.

Recipient of the Rome Prize in Architecture in 1991, his honors include representing the US in the 2008 Venice Architecture Biennale, the Ford Foundation Visionaries Award in 2011, and the 2013 Architecture Award from the US Academy of Arts and Letters. Teddy is a professor in public culture and urbanism at University of California, San Diego.
Tom Finkelpearl serves as the Executive Director of the Queens Museum, which operates as a cultural crossroads in America’s most diverse county through art programs, community organizing, and educational outreach.

The museum recently completed an expansion that doubled its size. Finkelpearl was previously Deputy Director at P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, Director of New York City’s Percent for Art Program, and Executive Director of Program at The Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Maine. Finkelpearl has published two books: "Dialogues in Public Art" (MIT Press, 2000) and "What We Make: Conversations on Art and Social Cooperation" (Duke University Press, 2013).
Vasif Kortun  
Director, Research and Programs  
SALT

Vasif Kortun is a curator, writer and teacher in the field of contemporary visual art, its institutions, and spatial practices. He is the Director of Research and Programs of SALT, Istanbul/Ankara. Kortun is a member of the Board of Directors of Foundation for Arts Initiatives, CIMAM International Committee for Museums and Collections of Modern Art, and the Advisory Board of Asia Art Archive.

A recipient of the Award for Curatorial Excellence from Bard College, he was the founding director of a number of institutions including the Platform Garanti Contemporary Art Center, İstanbul, Proje4L, Istanbul Museum of Contemporary Art and the Museum of the Center for Curatorial Studies. Kortun has worked on a number of major biennale projects, including: Taipei Biennale (2008) co-curated with ManRay Hsu, 9th International İstanbul Biennial (2005) co-curated with Charles Esche.
Dr. Vishakha Desai is Special Advisor for Global Affairs to the President of Columbia University and Professor of Professional Practice at the School of International and Public Affairs. She also serves as Senior Advisor for Global Programs to the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation. From 2004 through 2012, Dr. Desai served as President and CEO of the Asia Society, a global organization dedicated to strengthening partnerships between Asia and the U.S.

Prior to becoming President, Dr. Desai held numerous senior positions within the Asia Society, initiating presentations of several major exhibitions of Contemporary Asian and Asian American art in the 1990’s, among the earliest efforts of its kind.