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By **Doug MacCash, The Times-Picayune**

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Artist and venue lists shaping up for the city's second international contemporary art show



Courtesy of Murray Guy, New York

Prospect.2 artist An-My Lê's photograph "Patient Admission, US Naval Hospital Ship Mercy, Vietnam." Archival pigment print, 40 x 56 inches, Edition of 5.

The Prospect.2 New Orleans international exhibit that begins Oct. 22 will provide Crescent City art lovers with a selection of solo shows by accomplished artists from as far away as Poland, Chile and Vietnam. It will also highlight the work of a handful of New Orleans notables. But Prospect.2 will be leaner and more compact than Prospect.1, the mammoth citywide show that put the Crescent City on the international art map in 2008.

**Take a video tour of Prospect.1 here.**

Instead of the 80 individual installations, many of which were

scattered in remote locations across the city, such as **Mark Bradford's plywood Noah's ark** that arose in a Lower 9th Ward lot, Prospect. 2 will feature 26 indoor shows, mostly housed in major institutions such as the New Orleans Museum of Art, Contemporary Arts Center and Ogden Museum of Southern Art.

Curator Dan Cameron said that the reason for the reduction in scale is simple: "We decided that we wanted to present an exhibit we could pay for."

In the end, Prospect.1 cost \$4.5 million, Cameron said. Before the planning of Prospect.2 could begin, Cameron and the board of directors that oversees the nonprofit Prospect shows had to pay off \$1 million in debt. The second show was supposed to begin in November 2010, but the frosty economy made it impossible to raise sufficient money; it was postponed for a year. **Read about the delay here.**

The budget of Prospect.2, which Cameron estimates to be below \$2.5 million, will be more manageable, he said.

At times the belt-tightening was painful, Cameron said. A few artists who had agreed to participate, such as celebrated photographer Cindy Sherman, proved to be too pricey for P.2. But, Cameron said, the important thing is to successfully produce a second international show in New Orleans to keep the momentum alive.

"Our fortunes have gone up and down," he said. "This is the shot we have to keep this tradition part of New Orleans."

In truth, Cameron said, P.1 may have been bigger than necessary. It was, he said, like a "rock festival where you couldn't see all the bands." The pared-down P.2 is meant to demonstrate the biennial's sustainability. While P.1 was free, P.2 will have an admission fee: \$10 for a day pass, \$20 for a week pass and \$30 for a season pass.



Courtesy of Jonathan Ferrara Gallery

"United We Stand" a folded money design by Prospect.2 artist Dan Tague of New Orleans

But it's not all a matter of dollars and cents. Cameron is confident that the quality of the art on display in P.2 will satisfy patrons spoiled by the bounty of the first show.

Though there's no specific theme, Cameron said that several of the artists will explore environmental topics in their work. Alexis Rockman, a New York-based painter, will create a realistic mural depicting the plight of animals in an increasingly threatening world. Polish artist Pawel Wojtasik will present a 360-degree video installation that blurs the distinction between dry land and water. Vietnam-born An-My Lê will use her art to investigate persistent patterns of living among natives of the Mekong delta who have moved to coastal Mississippi.

Seven local artists are included in the show: **Bruce Davenport Jr.**, **Dawn DeDeaux**, George Dunbar, **Gina**

**Phillips**, Ashton T. Ramsey, **Dan Tague** and **Robert Tannen**.

Cameron said that conceptualist **DeDeaux** plans an installation inspired by the novel "Confederacy of Dunces," and **Davenport** plans a mural-scale rendering of New Orleans high school and college marching bands. A few more artists may be added to the exhibit by October, he said.

### **Prospect.2 New Orleans**

**What:** An international exhibit of contemporary art selected by curator Dan Cameron.

**Artists:** Nick Cave (U.S.), Jonas Dahlberg (Sweden), Bruce Davenport Jr. (U.S.), Dawn DeDeaux (U.S.), R. Luke DuBois (U.S.), George Dunbar (U.S.), William Eggleston (U.S.), Nicole Eisenman (France), Karl Haendel (U.S.), Ragnar Kjartansson (Iceland), William Pope.L (U.S.), An-My Lê (Vietnam), Ivan Navarro (Chile), Lorraine O'Grady (U.S.), Tsuyoshi Ozawa (Japan), Gina Phillips (U.S.), Ashton T. Ramsey (U.S.), Alexis Rockman (U.S.), Joyce J. Scott (U.S.), Jennifer Steinkamp (U.S.), Dan Tague (U.S.), Robert Tannen (U.S.), Grazia Toderi (Italy), Francesco Vezzoli (Italy), and Pawel Wojtasik (Poland).

**Where:** Contemporary Arts Center, Isaac Delgado Art Gallery, Newcomb Art Gallery, New Orleans African American Museum, New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation, The New Orleans Museum of Art, Ogden Museum of Southern Art, UNO St. Claude Gallery, Xavier University Arts Village.

**When:** Oct. 22 to Jan. 29, 2012

**Admission:** \$10 for a day pass, \$20 for a week pass and \$30 for a season pass.