

The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum

For Immediate Release

THE ALDRICH DECENNIAL: I AM WHAT IS AROUND ME June 7, 2026, to January 10, 2027

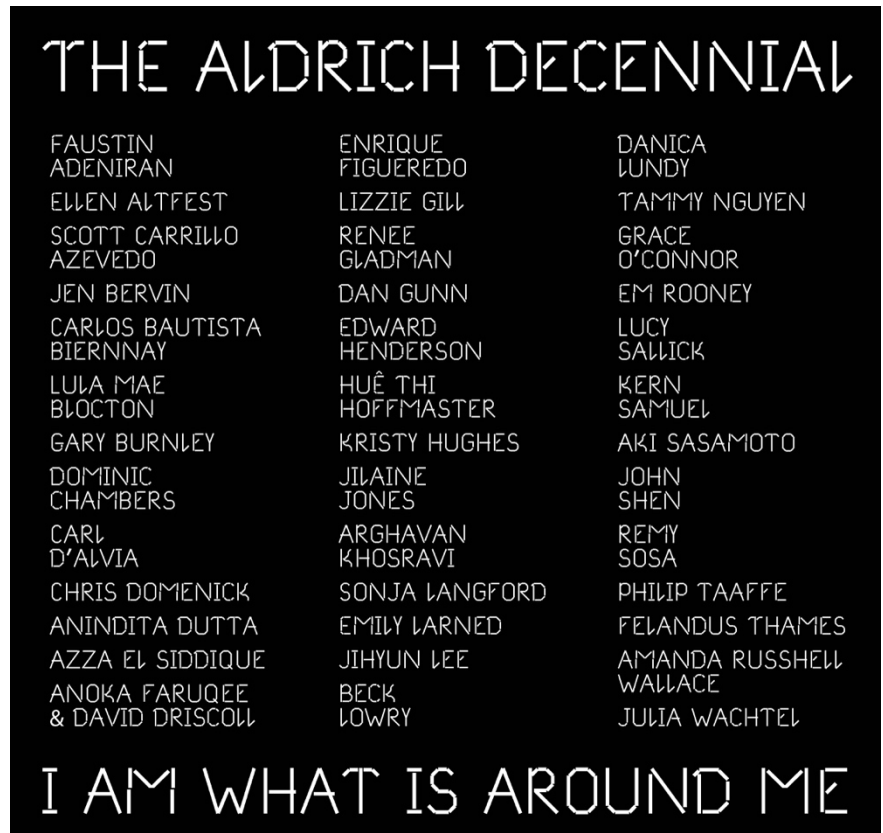
Debuting a recurring survey of artists who live and work in Connecticut that will take place once a decade

Ridgefield, CT (January 13, 2026)—The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum is pleased to present *The Aldrich Decennial: I am what is around me*, the debut of a recurring survey, taking place every ten years, featuring artists who live and work in Connecticut. As the state's only institution exclusively dedicated to contemporary art, this series will spotlight current artists and practices emerging from Connecticut. None of the featured artists will have had a solo museum exhibition in Connecticut, and all works will have been created within the last decade. *The Aldrich Decennial: I am what is around me* will be on view at The Aldrich from June 7, 2026, to January 10, 2027, and will be accompanied by a catalogue.

Connecticut has been the home to many goliaths of art history, including Anni and Josef Albers, Kay Sage and Yves Tanguy, Louise Bourgeois, Alexander Calder, Jasper Johns, Barkley Hendricks, and Sol LeWitt. Spanning the full footprint of the Museum's 8,000-square-foot galleries and recently renovated three-acre campus and Sculpture Garden, this survey will explore the varied artistic expressions of generations of artists who have chosen to live and work outside major art centers. The Aldrich has a long history of supporting Connecticut artists through solo, group, and invitational exhibitions since its inception. In alignment with the Museum's mission to support artists at pivotal points in their careers, this exhibition will feature an intergenerational roster of artists emphasizing breakout debuts and rediscoveries.

"While The Aldrich's expansive mission highlights the work of living artists from around the United States and the world, over the past 60 years the Museum has also had an enduring interest in artists living and working in Connecticut," said Cybele Maylone, Executive Director of The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum. "With the debut of this inaugural series we are so proud to spotlight the immense talent in our small but mighty state."

Modeled after other major museum series, this exhibition will showcase the breadth of artists' practices and present an opportunity for artists at varying stages of their careers within the state. The dynamism of Connecticut's landscape has long provided a respite for artists who have chosen to work outside the pressure and expense of major metropolitan art centers like New York or Boston. As rents continue to increase, this trend has accelerated. Diana Bowes Chief Curator



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Amy Smith-Stewart and Curatorial and Publications Manager Caitlin Monachino conducted over 100 studio visits to understand the tenor of creation across the state.

“Connecticut has always been a site for visionary artists and daring ideas,” says Amy Smith-Stewart, Diana Bowes Chief Curator. “This survey spotlights artists who call this place home—artists whose work is deeply rooted in the Museum’s community yet resonates far beyond it. It’s an honor to share their powerful voices with the world through this new exhibition series.”

An intergenerational group of 40 artists have been selected to participate in the inaugural exhibition *The Aldrich Decennial: I am what is around me*:

Faustin Adeniran (b. 1988)
Ellen Altfest (b. 1970)
Scott Carrillo Azevedo (b. 1983)
Jen Bervin (b. 1972)
Carlos Bautista Biernay (b. 1969)
Lula Mae Blocton (b. 1947)
Gary Burnley (b. 1950)
Dominic Chambers (b. 1993)
Carl D’Alvia (b. 1965)
Chris Domenick (b. 1982)
Anindita Dutta (b. 1973)
Azza El Siddique (b. 1984)
Anoka Faruquee (b. 1972) & David Driscoll (b. 1964)
Enrique Figueredo (b. 1980)
Lizzie Gill (b. 1989)
Renee Gladman (b. 1971)
Dan Gunn (b. 1980)
Edward Henderson (b. 1951)
Huê Thi Hoffmaster (b. 1982)
Kristy Hughes (b. 1987)

Jilaine Jones (b. 1959)
Arghavan Khosravi (b. 1984)
Sonja Langford (b. 1994)
Emily Larned (b. 1977)
Jihyun Lee (b. 1979)
Beck Lowry (b. 1980)
Danica Lundy (b. 1991)
Tammy Nguyen (b. 1984)
Grace O’Connor (b. 1974)
Em Rooney (b. 1983)
Lucy Sallick (b. 1937)
Kern Samuel (b. 1990)
Aki Sasamoto (b. 1980)
John Shen (b. 1990)
Remy Sosa (b. 1995)
Philip Taaffe (b. 1955)
Felandus Thames (b. 1974)
Amanda Russhell Wallace (b. 1986)
Julia Wachtel (b. 1956)

The exhibition’s title, *I am what is around me*, is excerpted from the American poet Wallace Stevens’s poem “Theory,” 1917. Stevens lived in Hartford, Connecticut, for 40 years and many of his poems were inspired by the city.

The typeface for the exhibition design is DROIT, designed by the artists Christopher Sleboda and Kathleen Sleboda, based in Guilford, Connecticut.

Inaugurated by Diana Bowes Chief Curator Amy Smith-Stewart, the first edition of the series will be organized by Smith-Stewart and Curatorial and Publications Manager Caitlin Monachino.

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The exhibition will be accompanied by a significant publication featuring an essay, plates, installation views, and artist biographies.

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