Not Just Another Pretty Face 2016 Participants:

Artists:
Ani Afshar, Ruben Aguirre, Osei Agyeman-Badu, Biance Alebiosu, Ashley Allen, Candida Alvarez, Nikki Renee Anderson, Jeffrey Michael Austin, Lee Blalock, Corinna Button, Debra Culbreth, Matthew Cummins, Barbara Diener, Lessie Dixon, Sunny Neater DuBow, Reginald Eldridge, Stephen Flemister, Lora Forsberg, Eric J. Garcia, Maria Gaspar, Amanda Gentry, Susan Giles, Alice Hargrave, Russell Harris, Jamie Hayes, Charles Heppner, Samantha Hill, John Himmelfarb, Robert Holmes, Diane Jaderberg, Chad Kouri, Christine LaRue, David Leggett, Michelle Litvin, Julius Lyles, Cecil McDonald, Adelheid Mers, Matthew Metzger, Nuria Montiel, Jessie Mott, Ben Murray, Judy Natal, Sarah Nishiura, Michelle Nordmeyer, Joyce Owens, Cindy Phenix, Melissa Ann Pinney, Kaveri Raina, Renee Robbins, Darrell Roberts, Nancy Lu Rosenberg, Max Saising, David Schalliol, Tony Tasset, Luis De La Torre, Pete Wade, Mel Watkin, Rhonda Wheatley, Amanda Williams, Brittney Leeane Williams, Shyvette Williams, Scott Womniak, Mark Yee

Patrons:

Hyde Park Art Center
5020 South Cornell Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60615  773.324.5520  www.hydeparkart.org. Hyde Park Art Center is a unique resource that advances contemporary visual art in Chicago by connecting artists and communities in unexpected ways. The Art Center is funded in part by: The Alphawood Foundation; Andy Warhol Foundation for Visual Arts; a City Arts Ill grant from the City of Chicago’s Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events; Field Foundation of Illinois; Harpo Foundation; Harper Court Arts Council; Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; The Irving Harris Foundation; The Joyce Foundation; Leo S. Guthman Fund; Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; Palk Bros. Foundation; Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust; and the generosity of people like you.
Not Just Another Pretty Face is one of our favorite projects at the Hyde Park Art Center—we get to ride along on amazing creative and collaborative journeys over an eighteen-month period, while meeting interesting people along the way. The project is at the heart of our mission of making Chicago a place where artists thrive. By matching artists with patrons, Not Just Another Pretty Face offers a fulfilling and meaningful experience for everyone involved (especially ourselves). Our “matchmaking” service connects people from across the city with Chicago artists who collectively fit nearly every taste and budget. During the process, each commissioned artist creates a unique work, an enduring celebration of the collaboration between artist and patron that the patron keeps. As a result, the exhibition and this catalog are a document of thousands of conversations, studio visits, dinners, creative exchanges, and new friendships.

The inclusive spirit of the project mirrors the kind of environment we aim to create here at the Art Center—anyone, regardless of past experience or familiarity with contemporary art and artists can participate. Through this project, we have seen first-time art-buyers develop into avid collectors and consistent supporters of Chicago artists, galleries, and institutions. At the same time established collectors have had a new experience of collecting and gotten to know new artists in a very personal way—becoming lifelong patrons and friends. Similarly, artists who received their first commissions through Not Just Another Pretty Face have soared to international success, or simply felt validated in their work by someone who is curious and interested in their process. And the project has a tangible financial benefit to artists and the Art Center—over the past six iterations of the project, the project has raised nearly $1,000,000—half of which has gone directly in the pockets of Chicago artists and half of which has supported our programs that give these artists opportunities to show and develop their practice in new ways. We are incredibly proud that Not Just Another Pretty Face has been replicated in six different cities across the country, spreading the spirit of patronage nationwide.

This program could not happen without the support and involvement of artists, patrons, salon hosts, and many more. I want to especially acknowledge our program partner Diasporal Rhythms, involved in the program since 2008. Diasporal Rhythms is an amazing organization that embodies the spirit of patronage we aim to celebrate—developing a community of collectors and artists from the African Diaspora right here on the south side of Chicago. Thanks to our generous patrons who have been willing to jump into this adventure of working with artists and engaging with their practices in new ways. We are also grateful for the many salon hosts, who opened their homes and offices to their friends and colleagues to learn about the project and interesting work happening by our city’s artists. And, of course, we want to thank our committed and engaged artists who color this program with brilliance and inspire us all with boundless creativity. You are all the reason we do what we do every day. We are so grateful for the work you do.

Kate Lorenz
Executive Director