



Media Contact:
Beth@blinkcreativegroup.com
[Download Release as PDF](#)

FLAX CONTINUES TO CHAMPION FRANCE & SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ARTISTIC CULTURAL EXCHANGE WITH APPOINTMENT OF VISIONARY NEW CURATOR ANNA MILONE

Announcing Intriguing 2017 Los Angeles Arts Activations in Partnership with Grand Park, the Autry Museum of the American West and East of Borneo

Los Angeles, CA, March 31st, 2017—FLAX (France Los Angeles Exchange) is pleased to announce its newly-appointed curator and program director Anna Milone, who, in association with its unique LA-based partners, will deliver a compelling series of programs throughout Los Angeles for 2017. With hand-selected artists, this year's activations start in July with a trailblazing performing arts project in partnership with Grand Park, managed by The Music Center, and followed by an upcoming collaboration this November with the Autry Museum as well as East of Borneo, a collaborative online art publication. The project is dedicated to the representation of the deserted landscape and the relation of native people to this territory.

With French curator Anna Milone now driving the new direction for FLAX, the organization, which enters its second decade, continues to expand its presence throughout Southern California. Having held prestigious curatorial positions at Fondation Cartier and Monnaie de Paris, Milone also collaborated with Marc-Olivier Wahler on FLAX's 2013 exhibition, *Lost (in LA)*, which was presented at the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery. Her experience as a cultural producer for Nuit Blanche 2013, a world-renowned all-night art and performance festival in Paris, deepened her interest in public art. Most recently, she created *recto/verso*, a unique partnership between the charity organization, Secours populaire français and Fondation Louis Vuitton.

"We are delighted that Anna has joined our team," says Elisabeth Forney, FLAX's Executive Director. "Her vision reflects our far-reaching goal of igniting cross-cultural dialogue, providing a voice for expansive, multifarious points of view, which leads to exciting and influential projects."

Milone is now directing her attention towards curating significant collaborations with Los Angeles and France-based artists, curators and cultural institutions, which culminate in a unique experience for the public. To this end, Milone has secured Lola González, winner of the prestigious Prix Meurice 2016, as FLAX's first artist-in-residence for 2017; Etienne de France, a talented visual artist and filmmaker, will follow. Having observed their work and evolution over the years, Milone takes a very personalized approach, connecting her artists with LA's vibrant cultural scene while making important introductions. Under the FLAX residency, both artists have the singular opportunity to research and develop their projects here in Los Angeles.

"Keeping in mind the questions of community and identity, which are now more important than ever, I'm working with talented emerging artists to bring these topical themes to light, exploring the cultural similarities and differences between France and Southern California through artistic reciprocity," says Milone.

French video and performance artist, Lola González will lead an epic site-specific dance performance at Grand Park alongside two Los Angeles-based artists, choreographer Oguri and composer Paul Chavez. Co-written by González, Oguri and Chavez, *The distance is beautiful. La distance la plus courte entre deux points n'est pas une ligne droite*, was inspired by the complex landscape of the city. The project will enlist the participation of sixty professional and nonprofessional performers. A week of workshops for the troupe, led by González, Oguri, and Chavez, will culminate in a thoughtful and thought-provoking public performance on July 22, 2017 at Grand Park, managed by The Music Center.



The activation will tackle ideas including community, collaboration and the impact of urban living. Setting off from different locations, several groups will undertake a unique odyssey along the City's corridors. Echoing the recent unrest, they will march through the streets to their gathering place at Grand Park. The public is invited along on the journey, punctuated by individual actions and gestures as each participant acts out a role. Exploring the idea of a collective, the groups themselves become organisms, together stronger, and, more impactful. There is currently an open call for participation and for more information, visit www.flaxfoundation.org.

Multidisciplinary artist, Etienne de France, who arrives in Los Angeles this May to prepare for his November activation, will be the second FLAX artist-in-residence for 2017. His engaging video art piece, *Looking for the Perfect Landscape*, will be complemented by a curated screenings series, showcasing films by native artists and filmmakers from the United States and beyond. With vital research from the Autry's collection along with many encounters with local artists and specialists, the initiative captures the deserted landscapes of California, while merging documentary and fiction. Etienne explores these landscapes through the lens of his character, a young Chilean artist, and confronts important issues surrounding colonization, indigenous cultures and heritage. This November, *Looking for the Perfect Landscape*, will be shown at various venues around Los Angeles and online on East of Borneo's website.

About FLAX:

FLAX (France Los Angeles Exchange) is a California-based 501(c)3 public charity committed to collaboration, innovation, exchange, and sustainable impact. Guided by our vision, FLAX's program offers Southern California artists and organizational partners reciprocal and collaborative opportunities with artists, curators, and cultural institutions based in France. FLAX has a strong commitment to public engagement, introducing multi-disciplinary art projects in collaboration with established cultural institutions. FLAX achieves its mission through three reciprocal modes of cultural exchange: FLAX Projects are large-scale art projects initiated, created, and produced by FLAX; FLAX Grants are provided to Southern California-based cultural organizations in support of France-related art projects in multiple disciplines; and FLAX Invites host France-related artists at the FLAX House in Los Angeles.

About Grand Park:

A vibrant outdoor gathering place, Grand Park is a beautiful public park for the entire community in Los Angeles County. With expansive green space for gatherings large and small, Grand Park celebrates the county's cultural vitality and is host to community events, cultural experiences, holiday celebrations, and many other activities that engage and attract visitors from all communities. The 12-acre Grand Park stretches from The Music Center on the west to City Hall on the east and is easily accessible by Metro via the Red/Purple line to the Civic Center/Grand Park station. The park was named one of American Planning Association's 10 "Great Public Spaces" in the U.S. for 2013. Working closely with the county, The Music Center is responsible for all operations and programming for the park. For more information, visit grandparkla.org or follow Grand Park on Facebook (GrandParkLosAngeles), as well as Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat (@GrandPark_LA).

About The Music Center:

The Music Center programs and manages Grand Park, a 12-acre adjacent greenspace, with year-round free programming. As L.A.'s performing arts destination, The Music Center is L.A.'s home to the world's greatest artistic programs and events. With four iconic theaters and four renowned resident companies – Center Theatre Group, the LA Master Chorale, the LA Opera and the LA Philharmonic – and recognized for its illustrious dance programming, Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center, The Music Center is a destination where audiences find inspiration in the very best of live performance, as well as nationally recognized arts education and participatory arts experiences. For more information, visit musiccenter.org Follow The Music Center on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat (@MusicCenterLA).

About East of Borneo:

East of Borneo is a collaborative reexamination of West Coast art and its history. They publish new essays and interviews alongside a growing archive of images, videos, texts, and sounds added by their community. East of Borneo Books sees the extension of their mission into print, calling attention to the best writing on the visual culture of Los Angeles. They also produce exhibitions, talks, screenings, and workshops, and republish material that is out of print or hard to find through their Second Life series.



About the Autry Museum of the American West:

The Autry brings together the stories of all peoples of the American West, connecting the past with the present to inspire our shared future. Located in beautiful Griffith Park, the Autry features world-class galleries filled with Native American art and artifacts, film memorabilia, historic firearms, paintings, and more. Throughout the year, the Autry also presents a wide range of public events and programs—including lectures, film, theater, festivals, family activities, and music—and performs scholarship, research, and educational outreach. The Autry's collection of more than 500,000 pieces of art and artifacts includes the Southwest Museum of the American Indian Collection, one of the largest and most significant collections of Native American materials in the United States.

###

Media Contact:

Beth@blinkcreativegroup.com

[Download Release as PDF](#)