FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
AUGUST 10, 2015

ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO TO OPEN FIRST COMPREHENSIVE MUSEUM SURVEY OF DAVID ADJAYE, INTERNATIONAL INNOVATOR IN ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

Making Place: The Architecture of David Adjaye Offers a Dynamic Installation to Explore His Work’s Distinct Approach, Influential Visual Language, and Global Significance

CHICAGO—The Art Institute announces the installation of a thought provoking mid-career survey of work by critically acclaimed architect David Adjaye, opening September 19, 2015, and running until January 3, 2016, in the only North American venue for this globally focused exhibition. Making Place: The Architecture of David Adjaye explores the architect’s transformation of complex ideas into approachable and innovative structures that respond to local and global systems of culture, economics, and technology. Born in Tanzania in 1966, and raised in Ghana, the Middle East, and England, Adjaye works from offices in London, New York, Berlin, and Accra. With projects worldwide, his practice defies cultural categories and geopolitical borders.

Exhibition co-curator, and Art Institute John H. Bryan Chair and Curator of Architecture and Design Zoë Ryan gives context to the exhibition’s vision: “This isn’t about sealing David’s career with a retrospective exhibition, but rather highlighting a critical moment to consider the possibilities of where David’s practice is headed. My hope is that the exhibition will promote a much richer understanding of an architect committed to creating projects of social and cultural significance and meaning.”
Rather than advance a signature architectural style, Adjaye’s structures address local concerns and conditions through an understanding of historical context and a flexible application of global modernism. Often set in cities struggling with diversity and difference, his public buildings provide spaces to foster connections and explore how neighborhoods evolve and how new communities emerge. Adjaye challenges conventions—drawing references from beyond the Western canon—to better contextualize his projects and reflect the diverse urban identities and multicultural experiences that shape them. These ideas are expressed in important recent projects, such as the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) in Washington, DC, a building that faces a complex history head on, bringing together references from across Africa and America in a visually and physically evocative design.

With the generous corporate sponsorship of Allstate Insurance Company, the exhibition—comprising furniture, housing, public buildings, and master plans—fills the first-floor Abbott Galleries and the second-floor Architecture and Design galleries in the Art Institute’s Modern Wing with drawings, sketches, models, and building mock-ups. A specially commissioned film featuring Adjaye’s collaborators, an international roster of influential art world figures, brings his projects alive and makes clear the important role that Adjaye plays in contemporary architecture today. In a special collaboration with the Art Institute, David Adjaye will also provide personal commentary on select works of African Art from the permanent collection, shared with visitors through new object labels that reflect his interests and inspirations.

*Making Place: The Architecture of David Adjaye* is accompanied by a richly illustrated catalogue with in-depth essays by David Adjaye, Zoë Ryan, Okwui Enwezor, Peter Allison, Andrea Phillips, and Mabel O. Wilson. Titled *David Adjaye: Form, Heft, Material*, and underwritten through the generosity of Nancy Carrington Crown and A. Steven Crown, the catalog is published by the Art Institute and Haus der Kunst and distributed worldwide by Yale University Press.
RELATED EVENTS

Opening Celebration for Making Place: The Architecture of David Adjaye
September 18, 2015
6:00PM–10:00PM
Modern Wing and Terzo Piano
Tickets required, and available for purchase on the Art Institute’s website:
http://www.artic.edu/event/opening-celebration-david-adjaye-0

Douglas Druick, President and Eloise W. Martin Director, with David Adjaye, will host a celebration of the opening of Making Place: The Architecture of David Adjaye at this exclusive event featuring performances from globally renowned DJ Kiss to benefit the Leadership Advisory Committee. Allstate Insurance Company is a supporting Corporate Sponsor.

Opening Reception and Lecture: David Adjaye in Conversation with Zoë Ryan, John H. Bryan Chair and Curator of Architecture and Design
September 16, 2015
6:00PM–9:00PM
Fullerton Hall
Reservations Required
Presented by the Architecture & Design Society.

Panel Discussion: The Art of Architecture: David Adjaye’s Collaborations with Artists
September 19, 2015
3:00PM–4:30PM
Fullerton Hall
Reservations Required

Hear from Studio Museum director Thelma Golden, artists Lorna Simpson and Theaster Gates, and architect David Adjaye, on the collaborations and commissions for homes and studio that are so vital to Adjaye’s practice. Exhibition curators Zoë Ryan, John H. Bryan Chair and Curator of Architecture and Design, and Okwui Enwezor, Director of Haus der Kunst, Munich, moderate. Presented by the Department of Museum Education, and the Architecture & Design Society.

Materials Inside and Out
Opens September 26, 2015
Ryan Education Center

Materials Inside and Out invites museum visitors of all ages to discover how architects use building materials, like wood, fabric, ceramic tiles, laminates, paint, stone, and plastics to create form and atmosphere. In the Ryan Education Center Experimental Gallery, visitors can handle material samples, make sketches, and arrange them to create a "mood board," just as professional architects like David Adjaye and members of his team do in their studio.

Family Festival: Making Place
September 26, 2015
Drop in: 10:30AM–3:00PM

Explore and play on a special day with a focus on architecture, design thinking, and place-making. Visit the exhibition Making Place: The Architecture of David Adjaye on your own and enjoy a variety of art activities in the Ryan Education Center, including the Little Studio for ages 3-5, and collaborative art-making projects for all ages. Hear the performance duo “In the Spirit” tell stories of growth and change in communities over time. Allstate Insurance Company is a supporting Corporate Sponsor.
RELATED EVENTS

The Gathering - Call and Response: Activating Public Space
October 1, 2015
6:00PM
Griffin Court

The Gathering is a new series that invites Chicago’s civic and cultural leaders to a public conversation about art and its connection to our city. Using the lens of David Adjaye’s architectural ideas featured in *Making Place: The Architecture of David Adjaye*, the first program explores how public spaces can engage 21st-century citizens.

*Allstate Insurance Company is a supporting Corporate Sponsor.*

Tween Workshop: Design Time
October 3, 2015
11:00AM–2:00PM
Registration Required

Work with a teaching artist as you explore the exhibition *Making Place: The Architecture of David Adjaye* with other tweens, share your ideas on architecture and design, and design a place to address the concerns of the whole community.

*What’s at Stake?: Designing Global Cities*
November 6, 2015
6:00PM–8:00PM
Fullerton Hall

An international group of architects, urban theorists, and planners discuss the possibilities and challenges of designing adaptive, responsive buildings and structures that contribute to the well-being of citizens in 21st century cities. Featuring David Adjaye, Columbia University scholar Mabel O. Wilson, president of Chicago’s Metropolitan Planning Council, MarySue Barrett, Superpool architect Selva Gürdoğan, and other influential figures in architecture and design.

*Presented by the Department of Museum Education, and the Architecture & Design Society.*

Family Workshop: Material Matters
November 7, 2015
11:00AM–12:30PM or 2:00PM–3:30PM
Ages 6–12
Registration Required

Explore the exhibition *Making Place: The Architecture of David Adjaye* and consider the forms and materials used to create architecture and the built environment. Then, design a mixed-media model of a special place you would like to create for your neighborhood.

Teen Workshop: David Adjaye
November 14, 2015
11:00AM-4:00PM
Registration Required

In Teen Workshops, 15-18 teen participants from around Chicagoland spend the day at the Art Institute getting to know other teens, exploring *Making Place: The Architecture of David Adjaye*, and working with a teaching artist in the studio to create their own works of art.
Sponsors:

Making Place: The Architecture of David Adjaye is organized by Haus der Kunst, Munich, and the Art Institute of Chicago. Major funding has been generously provided by Nancy Carrington Crown and A. Steven Crown and Barbara Bluhm-Kaul and Don Kaul. The Auxiliary Board of the Art Institute of Chicago is the Lead Affiliate Sponsor. Allstate Insurance Company is a supporting Corporate Sponsor.

The exhibition catalogue, David Adjaye: Form, Heft, Material, has been underwritten by Nancy Carrington Crown and A. Steven Crown. Additional support for the exhibition has been provided by the Fellows and Benefactors of the Architecture and Design Department, the Architecture & Design Society, the Leadership Advisory Committee, Cheryl and Eric McKissack, the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, and Linda Johnson Rice. Further support has been provided by Knoll.

Annual support for Art Institute exhibitions is provided by the Exhibitions Trust: Kenneth Griffin, Robert M. and Diane v. S. Levy, Thomas and Margot Pritzker, the Earl and Brenda Shapiro Foundation, and the Woman's Board.

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MUSEUM HOURS
Daily: 10:30–5:00
Thursdays until 8:00

Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's days
Children under 14 always free
Members always free

The Art Institute of Chicago gratefully acknowledges the support of the Chicago Park District on behalf of the citizens of Chicago.