

**MAY 1, 2012**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **BIG ART GROUP TALK & TBA PROJECT RESIDENCY**

**When:** Artist Lecture: May 15, 2012, 7–8:30pm  
**Where:** PICA, 415 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Suite 300), Portland, OR 97205  
**FREE**

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**Press Photos:** [http://www.pica.org/himages/PRESS/2012/03\\_BigArtGroupTalk/](http://www.pica.org/himages/PRESS/2012/03_BigArtGroupTalk/)

**Event Details:** <http://www.pica.org/programs/detail.aspx?eventid=814>

Renowned performance ensemble Big Art Group brings their culturally transgressive, technology-bending style to town to create a new work with the Portland community. In May, the company will be in residence at PICA, recording interviews with a cross-section of local residents for *The People—Portland*, a monumental, outdoor, live theater and video piece debuting at this year's Time-Based Art Festival. With interview topics spanning the big ideas around democracy, justice, and community, the performance will blend this recorded digital "chorus" with a highly mediatized live take on the Greek tragedy *The Oresteia*.

**PICA**

"Bringing Big Art Group for their first Portland engagement continues PICA's legacy of presenting visionary artists who are making culturally timely work and pushing the boundaries of form," explains PICA Artistic Director Angela Mattox. "But equally important to me is how the company makes their work. I am deeply committed to building more connections between local audiences and PICA projects, and the process of *The People—Portland* will directly engage a great cross-section of the town in its creation."

While in town working on the *The People*, Big Art Group Artistic Director Caden Manson will give a free public lecture on the company's blend of high and low technology, marginal and mainstream culture, and the questions they pose about contemporary experience.

### **About Big Art Group**

Big Art Group is a New York-based experimental performance ensemble founded by Caden Manson and Jemma Nelson in 1999. Through an innovative use of language, technology, and experimental methods of communication, the company pushes formal and ideological boundaries of art and performances. Big Art Group has produced 12 original works: *CLEARCUT*, *catastrophe!* (1999), *The Balladeer* (2000), *Shelf Life* (2001), *Flicker* (2002), *House of No More* (2004), *Dead Set* (2006-Serial Project), *The People* (2007-Serial Project), *The Sleep* (2007), *The Imitation* (2008), *SOS* (2008), *Cityrama* (2010-Serial Project), and *Broke House* (2012). Through these works, the company has pioneered the integrated spectacle of 'Real-Time Film,' a hybrid of film and theater that recombines traditional performance through the use of simultaneous live performance and live video,

complex choreography, and digital puppetry. Big Art Group exists in the contemporary stream of post-dramatic performance, wherein traditional narratives and established performer-audience relationships have been opened up to create new possibilities for discovery.

### **About *The People—Portland***

With their unmistakable brand of transgressive internet-age aesthetics, Big Art Group broaches broad civic themes of justice, war, and democracy in an outdoor spectacle of live theater and large-scale video projection. Through a “chorus” of video interviews conducted with local residents, *The People—Portland* loosely retells the Greek tragic cycle of the Oresteia. Together, their thoughts and perspectives form a census of Portland at this moment, while investigating the larger state of justice and society and the relationship of the networked public to mediated information.

*The People—Portland* is part of a larger cross-cultural work in which the video choruses from each location will be combined to capture the variation of democratic public expression around the world. To date, four productions in the series have been presented: *The People—Italy*, in Polverigi in 2007; *The People—Germany*, in Halle in 2008; *The People—Austria* in Salzburg in 2010; and *The People—San Francisco* in 2011.

The logo for PICA (Portland Institute for Contemporary Art) features the letters 'PICA' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letters are positioned above a horizontal yellow bar that extends to the left of the 'P'.

### **About Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA)**

Portland Institute for Contemporary Art acknowledges and advances new developments in contemporary art, fostering the explorations of artists and audiences. Since 1995, PICA has championed the practice of contemporary artists from around the world, driving vital conversations about the art and issues of today. PICA presents artists from visual and performance backgrounds and embraces those individuals who exist at the borders of genres and ideas. Through artist residencies and exhibitions, lectures and workshops, and the annual Time-Based Art Festival, PICA constructs a broad platform for contemporary art.