

For immediate release

## THREAD BENEFIT EXHIBITION

June 27 – July 21, 2017

Opening reception: Tuesday, June 27, 6 – 8 PM

Press preview with Nicholas Fox Weber

Executive Director of The Josef and Anni Albers Foundation: Tuesday, June 27, 5 PM



© Giovanni Hänninen for The Josef and Anni Albers Foundation

David Zwirner is pleased to announce a benefit exhibition in New York to support *Thread*, a Senegal-based non-profit cultural and community center established in 2015 by The Josef and Anni Albers Foundation. The exhibition will feature 28 works generously donated by 26 gallery artists and estates, as well as photographs by Giovanni Hänninen depicting *Thread* and its surroundings. With this fundraiser, *Thread* will be able to establish an endowment so that it can operate in perpetuity in the region.

*Thread* is an artists' residency and community center in Sinthian, a village in the southeastern region of Senegal with a population of nearly 1,000. The Josef and Anni Albers Foundation initiated the project in an isolated part of sub-Saharan Africa to allow painters, dancers, photographers, and other artists from all over the world, as well as from within Senegal, to pursue their own work while also interacting with the local community.

Anni Albers said "You can go anywhere from anywhere." In the two years since it opened, *Thread*—like Black Mountain College and the Bauhaus, where Anni and Josef both worked and taught—has proved her point.

*Thread's* collaborative enterprises with the people of the region have grown significantly since its inception. *Thread* now provides agricultural training, and is home to an unprecedented cooperative of some 135 local women who grow and sell nutritious legumes and vegetables—thus eliminating, for the first time, hunger during the season of famine, while also providing income to its members. *Thread* has also become home to music and dance festivals, soccer tournaments, daily study halls, English classes, and village meetings. In addition, *Thread*, unlike other local spaces, offers a public gathering place for the female population of Sinthian, as well as teenagers from the surrounding area.

Since *Thread* has opened, the resident population of Sinthian has grown—the exact opposite of the prevalent trend of people moving away from the area and trying to emigrate. *Thread* has added inestimable vibrancy, sustainability, and joy to local life, creating bridges between the inhabitants of Sinthian and the surrounding region with a global community of artists, writers, singers, rappers, dancers, food specialists, and designers.

Tomma Abts

Anni Albers

Josef Albers

Ruth Asawa

Carol Bove

R. Crumb

Raoul De Keyser

Marlene Dumas

Marcel Dzama

William Eggleston

Suzan Frecon

Giovanni Hänninen

Donald Judd

Toba Khedoori

Aline Kominsky-Crumb

Oscar Murillo

Alice Neel

Raymond Pettibon

Neo Rauch

Ad Reinhardt

Bridget Riley

Al Taylor

Wolfgang Tillmans

Luc Tuymans

James Welling

Christopher Williams

Lisa Yuskavage

**For all press inquiries and to RSVP to the press preview, contact**

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Visit [thread-senegal.org](http://thread-senegal.org)