Brooklyn-based Erica Allen received her M.F.A. in photography from the School of Visual Arts in 2008. Her photographs have been published in the Visual Arts Journal, Outlook, and Photograph, and she has exhibited in New York City at Visual Arts Gallery, the Camera Club of New York, Melanie Flood Projects, and the Center for Fine Art Photography.

John Baldessari was born in National City, CA, in 1931 and is now based in Santa Monica, CA. He attended San Diego State University and did postgraduate work at Otis Art Institute, Chouinard Art Institute, and the University of California at Berkeley. Baldessari is considered one of the most influential artists of his generation, and his awards and honors include memberships in the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, as well as the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement awarded by La Biennale di Venezia in 2009. Baldessari has been the subject of more than 200 solo exhibitions and has participated in over 900 group exhibitions throughout the U.S. and Europe. His output spans artist books, videos, films, billboards, and public works, and his art has recently been included in exhibitions in New York, Europe, and Los Angeles, including “John Baldessari: Pure Beauty,” a retrospective that began at the Tate Modern in London in 2009 and will travel to the Museu d’Art Contemporani de Barcelona, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Suzanne Bocanegra lives and works in New York City. A recipient of the Rome Prize, she has also received grants from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation, the Tiffany Foundation, the Joan Mitchell Foundation, and the New York Foundation for the Arts. Her work has been featured in exhibitions in the United States and abroad in such venues as the Serpentine Gallery in London, the Hayward Gallery in London, the Armand Hammer Museum in Los Angeles, and the Fabric Workshop in Philadelphia. Her theatrical, video, and film work has been presented at the Bang on a Can Festival, the New Haven Festival of Art and Ideas, the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, and as part of the Wordless Music series in New York City. The Tang Museum in Saratoga Springs, NY, will host a major show of Bocanegra’s work in July 2010.

Jared Flood is a New York–based knitwear designer and photographer. A Pacific Northwest native, Flood holds an M.F.A. from the New York Academy of Art and travels the country teaching traditional hand-knitting technique and garment construction. His pattern designs and writings have been featured in Interweave Knits, Vogue Knitting, Knit 1 Magazines, and Spin Off (Interweave Press) as well as other print and online sources. Flood’s photography has been featured in Good Housekeeping, New York magazine, Vogue Knitting, The Knitter, and a number of books and online publications. He is the author of Made in Brooklyn, a collection of original hand-knitting designs with natural fibers, distributed by Classic Elite Yarns. (Biographies of the designers who contributed to Flood’s “Esprit de Corpse” project can be found at www.esopusmag.com.)

Marcia Kure was born in 1975 in Kano, Nigeria. She graduated with a B.A. in painting from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, in 1994. Kure has taken part in many solo and group exhibitions, including the Multicoach Africa “African Artists of the Future” calendar in 2002 and 2003’s Fela Project at the New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York (currently touring throughout the U.S.). Her work is inspired by African cave paintings, woven and printed textiles, body painting, and traditions drawn from her Nigerian background. These include Uli, a painting and drawing tradition practiced by the Igbo women of eastern Nigeria that employs simple forms and minimal use of color. Kure, who is represented by BravinLee Programs, currently lives and works in Princeton, NJ.

Kerry James Marshall was born in Birmingham, AL, in 1955 and grew up in the South Central and Watts neighborhoods of Los Angeles in the 1960s. Marshall earned a B.F.A. in 1978 and an honorary doctorate in 1999 from the Otis Art Institute in Los Angeles, where he studied under Charles White and Arnold Mesches. His paintings, sculpture, and installations have been exhibited at the Art Institute of Chicago, the Berlinische Galerie in Berlin, and MASS MoCA in North Adams, MA, and they reside in the permanent collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, among others. He has also worked as a production designer for such films as Daughters of the Dust (1991) and taught at the School of Art and Design at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Marshall has received a MacArthur Fellowship, a National Endowment for the Arts Visual Arts Fellowship, and a Wexner Center Residency Award. He currently lives and works in Chicago, IL.

Tokyo native Juri Morioika has made New York City her home since receiving her B.F.A. in painting from Parsons School of Design in 1990. Her work has been exhibited in galleries throughout the U.S. as well as in Japan, Greece, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, and Syria. Morioika, who has a studio at Kenkeleba House in the East Village, has been the recipient of a Chashama artist-in-residence studio space grant, a full-fellowship residency from the Vermont Studio Center, and grants from the Sam and Adele Golden Foundation for the Arts, the Ruth and Harold Chenven Foundation, the Puffin Foundation, and the Ludwig Vogelstein Foundation.

John O’Connor, who is represented by Brooklyn’s Pierogi Gallery, received an M.F.A. from Pratt Institute in 2000 and also attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. His work has been featured in solo and group shows at P.S.1, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh, among many other institutions, and it resides in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Weatherspoon Museum, Southern Methodist University, and the New Museum of Contemporary Art. O’Connor, who received a Pollock-Krasner Foundation grant in 2007, currently teaches at Princeton University and has previously taught art and art history at Pratt Institute, New York University, and Adelphi University.

Roxy Paine was born in 1966 in New York and studied at both the College of Santa Fe in New Mexico and Pratt Institute in New York. Since 1990, his work has been internationally exhibited and is included in major collections, including the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, D.C., the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, the Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and the Whitney Museum of American Art. His sculptures can be found at various museums and foundations, including Seattle’s Olympic Sculpture Park; the Wanen Foundation in Knislinge, Sweden; Montenmedio Arte Contemporaneo NMAC in Cadiz, Spain; and the St. Louis Museum of Art. Paine, whose most recent large-scale sculptural installation, Maelstrom, was installed on the roof of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 2009, lives and works in Brooklyn and Treadwell, NY.

Judy Pfaff was born in London in 1946. She received a B.F.A. from Washington University in St. Louis (1971) and an M.F.A. from Yale University (1973). A pioneer of installation art in the 1970s, Pfaff synthesizes sculpture, painting, and architecture into site-specific installations composed of steel, fiberglass, and plaster as well as salvaged signage and natural elements. Pfaff has received MacArthur Fellowship (2004), a Bessie Award (1984), and fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation (1983) and the National Endowment for the Arts (1986). Her work has been the subject of major exhibitions at the Chazen Museum of Art at the University of Wisconsin (2002), the Denver Art Museum (1994), the St. Louis Art Museum (1989), and the Albright–Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo (1982). Pfaff, who represented the United States in the 1998 Bienal de São Paulo, lives and works in upstate New York, where she is a professor of art at Bard College.

Originally from Munich, Germany, Barbara Probst is best known for her works that use various cameras positioned at different angles to record a subject at one particular moment in time. She is represented by Murray Guy Gallery in New York and her work has been featured in exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art, the Museum of Contemporary Photography in Chicago, the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles, and Kunstsveren Oldenborg in Germany. A book of her work, Barbara Probst: Exposures, was published by Steidl and the Museum of Contemporary Photography in Chicago in 2007. Probst divides her time between Munich and New York City.

Fernando Santangelo was born in Montevideo, Uruguay, where he learned to paint and dreamed of one day becoming an archaeologist. After moving to New York City in 1982, he began creating art installations and temporary décors for the clubs of restaurateur and nightlife impresario Eric Goode. These caught the eye of hotelier André Balazs, who hired Santangelo to give a historically sensitive modernization to the Chateau Marmont Hotel, the 1920s landmark on Sunset Boulevard in Los Angeles. The renovated “Chateau” enjoyed tremendous acclaim, leading Santangelo to open his own design firm, Fernando Santangelo interiors, in 1995. His clients since have included the Raleigh Hotel in Miami’s South Beach and Lehman-Maupin Gallery in New York City. Santangelo’s work appears frequently in the pages of World of Interiors, Interior Design, Elle Decor, and The New York Times Magazine.

—Compiled by Keriann Kohler