



PRESS RELEASE, for Immediate Release

The Cooper Union Alumni Association has selected Michael Samuelian FAIA, class of 1995, as the recipient of the 2018 John Q. Hejduk Award.

New York, NY, February 6th, 2018 — In presenting this award, the John Q. Hejduk Award Committee recognizes Michael Samuelian's extraordinary commitment to improving the architecture and civic spaces of New York City by engaging, across the arc of his distinguished career, the myriad aspects of designing the city, in both the public and private realms. Following graduate study at the Harvard Graduate School of Design and five years of practice, he joined the Manhattan Office of the New York City Department of City Planning as director of Lower Manhattan Special Projects, responsible for developing policy, managing design, coordination and strategic planning for all major urban planning and design initiatives in Lower Manhattan. His projects would include the East River Waterfront Concept Plan, commercial guidelines for the rebuilt World Trade Center, and the Fulton Street Retail Revitalization. He would then return to the private sector where he would become a vice president at Related Companies, responsible for the design and planning of Hudson Yards, a 17 million sq. ft. \$20 billion mixed use development in midtown on one of the last significant undeveloped properties remaining in Manhattan. His disciplined, strategic and tireless advocacy was instrumental to the project including 13 acres of new public space, large scale public art, and significant new works of architecture.

Michael has also taught in the school of architecture, developing and teaching the course Professional Practice for over ten years. He has been an extraordinary mentor to several generations of students, preparing them for a move from academic study to practice, in its broadest sense, and supporting them deep into their careers.

But Michael's accomplishments prior to 2017 seem to be mere preparation for the important position he now holds. In 2017 Michael returned to the non-profit public sector to serve as President and CEO of the Trust for Governors Island, responsible for the operations, management and planning of 172 acres of largely open space on a largely unpopulated island in New York Harbor. This extraordinary place, with its dozens of historic structures, proximity to the harbor and extraordinary views of lower Manhattan, Brooklyn and Liberty Island is poised for a transformation, to be reimagined as New York City's newest neighborhood, newest public space, newest cultural destination, all under Michael's leadership and vision.

And here the committee hopes that this award will not only acknowledge and honor Michael's many and significant achievements, but also his new opportunities, and in doing so give momentum to a set of causes: the cause of public space as shared among all peoples of the city, in all their resplendent diversity; the cause of cities as places of opportunity for all; the cause of cities as places of imagination, invention and transformation, as places for making and protecting culture. As John Hejduk himself served the discipline of architecture, New York City, and the broader world as an educator, architect and visionary, we hope that this award might be a call to action, not just to Michael as he works to imagine and realize a new future for the Island, perhaps as a new model of the city itself, but a call to action to all of us. In light of the

prevailing situation in our city, country and across our planet, a call to think boldly, to speak clearly, to act with courage and determination, toward better civic space and civic life, on Governors Island, in this city we love, and for all humanity.

The 2018 John Q. Hejduk Award Committee

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About the John Q. Hejduk Award

The John Q. Hejduk Award was established by the Cooper Union Alumni Council in 2003, is given to a graduate of The Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture who has made an outstanding contribution to the theory, teaching and/or practice of architecture. The recipient reflects the passion and commitment that John Hejduk, Cooper Union faculty member from 1964-2000 and Dean of the School of Architecture from 1975-2000, had for architecture.

Past awardees include:

2017	Mark West	2009	Stan Allen
2016	Elizabeth O'Donnell	2008	Alexander Gorlin
2015	Evan Douglass	2007	Carmie Bee and Michael Kwartler
2014	Leslie Gill	2006	Maurice Cox
2013	Michael Morris and Yoshiko Sato	2005	Diane Lewis
2012	Lee Skolnick and Ralph Lerner	2004	Barry Elbasani
2011	Jessie Reiser and Nanako Umemoto	2003	Toshiko Mori
2010	Laurie Hawkinson		