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**Blanton Museum Announces Groundbreaking For Ellsworth Kelly's *Austin*,  
Organizes Symposium with Leading Kelly Scholars**

AUSTIN, Texas—September 29, 2015—The Blanton Museum of Art at the University of Texas at Austin has announced that it will begin construction of Ellsworth Kelly's *Austin* in October. A groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for October 31, and the building is projected to open to the public in late 2016 or early 2017. In celebration, the Blanton will host, on October 31, a symposium on Kelly, with leading scholars and curators from across the country.

The project was announced last February, and the Blanton has received formal approval from the university's Board of Regents, clearing the way for construction to begin this fall. The 2,715-square-foot stone structure—the only building ever designed by Kelly—will include luminous colored glass windows, a totemic wood sculpture, and fourteen black-and-white stone panels in marble, all designed by the artist. The work will be sited on the Blanton's grounds and, once realized, will become part of the museum's permanent collection.

"We are deeply grateful to UT Austin President Greg Fenves, former president Bill Powers, and the university's Board of Regents for their enthusiastic support of this project," remarked Blanton Director Simone Wicha. "We are also indebted to our visionary donors whose generosity will allow us to share Ellsworth Kelly's vision for this site of calm and light. Above all, we are honored that Ellsworth has entrusted us with realizing this important project, which will become an unparalleled global arts destination and will undoubtedly transform the university and the city of Austin."

In conjunction with the groundbreaking, the Blanton has organized a symposium on October 31 at 1 PM with internationally recognized Kelly scholars, including Richard Schiff, the Effie Marie Cain Regents Chair in Art at the University of Texas at Austin; Tricia Y. Paik, curator of contemporary art at the Indianapolis Museum of Art; Carter Foster, the Steven and Ann Ames Curator of Drawing at The Whitney Museum of American Art; and Gavin Delahunty, the Hoffman Family Senior Curator of Contemporary Art at the Dallas Museum of Art. The event will take place at the Blanton and will be moderated by Veronica Roberts, the museum's curator of modern and contemporary art, who is part of the team working to realize *Austin*. The program coincides with the publication of a major new monograph on Kelly produced by Phaidon Press. The book was created in close collaboration with the artist and is the first publication to cover his entire career, from the 1940s to today. It will highlight all of Kelly's major works, including the Blanton's *Austin*.

In January, Kelly gifted the design concept for *Austin* to the Blanton, and the museum is actively fundraising for the campaign to construct and fabricate the artwork, support the redevelopment of the grounds surrounding the piece, and to build on the endowment for the operation, care, and conservation of the work.



The Blanton currently holds a significant early canvas by Ellsworth Kelly, *High Yellow* (1960), a gift from novelist James A. Michener and his wife, Mari, and an untitled print gifted to the museum by Robert Rauschenberg. In celebration of the Blanton's commitment to building Kelly's *Austin*, David Booth has promised to the museum a recent painting by the artist, *Red Relief with White* (2007), further deepening the Blanton's Kelly collection.

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### About Ellsworth Kelly

Ellsworth Kelly is regarded as one of the most important abstract painters, sculptors, draughtsman, and printmakers working today. Spanning seven decades, his career is marked by the independent route his art has taken, diverging from any formal school or art movement, and by his contribution to 21st-century painting and sculpture.

Kelly was born in Newburgh, New York in 1923. Since 1970, he has lived and worked in upstate New York. His works are held in public and private collections worldwide. Major retrospectives have been shown at the Museum of Modern Art (1973), Whitney Museum of American Art (1982), and Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (1996), among other venues in the US and in Europe. In 2013, in celebration of the artist's 90th birthday, special exhibitions were on view at the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Barnes Foundation, Philadelphia; Philadelphia Museum of Art; Art Institute of Chicago; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Tate Modern, London; Centre Pompidou, Paris; and National Gallery of Art and Phillips Collection in Washington, DC. In 2013, Kelly was awarded the National Medal of Arts, presented by the President of the United States.

### About the Blanton Museum of Art

Founded in 1963, the Blanton Museum of Art is one of the foremost university art museums in the country and holds the largest public collection in Central Texas. Recognized for its modern and contemporary American and Latin American art, Italian Renaissance and Baroque paintings, and encyclopedic collection of prints and drawings, the Blanton offers thought provoking, visually arresting, and personally moving encounters with art.

### Image Captions

Ellsworth Kelly, *Austin*, 2015 (model; interior view)

Artist-designed building with installation of colored glass windows, marble panels, and redwood totem, 60 ft. x 73 ft. x 26 ft. 4 in.

Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin

Gift of the artist, with funding generously provided by Jeanne and Michael Klein, Suzanne Deal Booth and David G. Booth, the Scurlock Foundation, the Longhorn Network, and other donors.

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Image courtesy the Blanton Museum of Art

Ellsworth Kelly, *Austin*, 2015 (exterior rendering)

Artist-designed building with installation of colored glass windows, marble panels, and redwood totem, 60 ft. x 73 ft. x 26 ft. 4 in.

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