



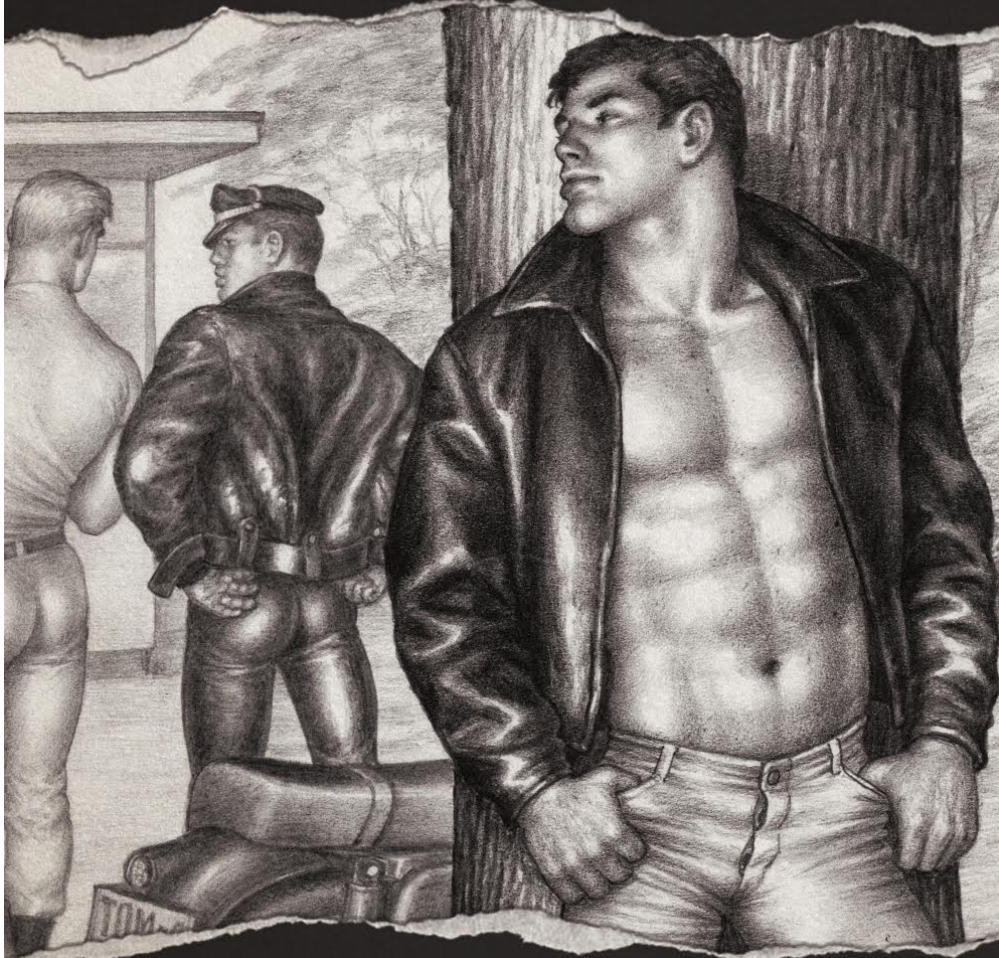
**Press Release**  
Museum of Contemporary  
Art Detroit

For Immediate Release:  
March 1, 2018

**The Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD) Presents**  
***TOM House: The Work and Life of Tom of Finland***  
**April 19 - May 19, 2018**  
**Opening Reception: Thursday, April 19, 2018, 6-9PM**  
**Mike Kelley's *Mobile Homestead* at Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit**

TOM HOUSE: THE WORK AND LIFE OF ...

# TOM OF FINLAND



ADDITIONAL HARD WORK FROM:

RAYMOND PETTIBON, RICHARD HAWKINS,  
JOHN WATERS, JIM SHAW, AND **LOADS** MORE!

**WARNING:**  
EXPLICIT  
CONTENT

APRIL 19 - MAY 19, 2018

OPENING RECEPTION: THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2018, 7 - 10 P.M.

MEMBERS PREVIEW: 6 P.M., CURATORS TALK: 7 P.M.

MIKE KELLEY'S *MOBILE HOMESTEAD* AT MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART DETROIT

SUPPORT FOR MIKE KELLEY'S *MOBILE HOMESTEAD* IS PROVIDED BY THE MIKE KELLEY FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS & MOCAD LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

Courtesy of Tom of Finland Foundation 2018; Credit: Nick Welch & Matthew Bellosi

DETROIT, MI – March 1, 2018 – The Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD), the Tom of Finland Foundation, and Graeme Flegenheimer (El Club Detroit) are pleased to present ***TOM House: The Work and Life of Tom of Finland***, opening **April 19, 2018** at **Mike Kelley's *Mobile Homestead*** at MOCAD.

In collaboration with Tom of Finland Foundation, Mike Kelley's Mobile Homestead will realize *TOM House: The Work and Life of Tom of Finland*. The exhibition will feature work by Tom of Finland (Touko Laaksonen, Finnish, 1920-1991) and incorporate artists who supported and admired his work over the years, including **Richard Hawkins**, **Robert Mapplethorpe**, **Raymond Pettibon**, **Jim Shaw**, and **John Waters**. The presentation will also include photographs, reference materials, and ephemera.

Tom of Finland's drawings - remarkable not only for their masterful rendering, but also their fantastical representation of the male form - have been long celebrated for their radical role in broadening the popular understanding of Queer experience in art. Placed in context with his peers, the assemblage of these artworks engages a sensational narrative, one that helped define a generation.

Tom spent the last decade of his life between Finland and TOM House in Echo Park, Los Angeles, California. The exhibition will evoke the spirit of the home where Tom had his studio and lived during his final years. Tom spent his career challenging the boundaries of art and social engagement, be it through his craft or thematic pursuits.

The exhibition will remain on view through May 19, 2018.

*This exhibition and associated public programs deal with mature themes. Adults visiting with youth must preview before entering exhibition or program.*

### **PUBLIC PROGRAMMING**

*Thursday, April 19, 6-9pm*

Opening Night Events

6pm - Member Preview Hour

7pm - Public Opening Reception & Curator's Talk with Durk Dehner (President, Tom of Finland Foundation), Sharp (Vice President, Tom of Finland Foundation/Curator), and Graeme Flegenheimer (Owner, El Club Detroit, Co-Curator of *TOM House: The Work and Life of Tom of Finland*) RSVP to Wayne Northcross at [wnorthcross@mocadetroit.org](mailto:wnorthcross@mocadetroit.org).

*Sunday, April 22, 4pm*

Film Screening: *Tom of Finland* (2017)

Award-winning filmmaker Dome Karukoski brings to screen the life and work of artist Touko Valio Laaksonen (aka Tom of Finland), one of the most influential and celebrated figures of twentieth century gay culture. The film will be followed by a Q&A with exhibition curators Durk Dehner, Sharp, and Graeme Flegenheimer. RSVP to Wayne Northcross at [wnorthcross@mocadetroit.org](mailto:wnorthcross@mocadetroit.org).

*Saturday, May 19, 2pm*

Workshop: Naughty Drawing

Figure drawing with live models and cocktails. RSVP to Wayne Northcross at [wnorthcross@mocadetroit.org](mailto:wnorthcross@mocadetroit.org).

Exhibition and public programs are free with a suggested \$5 donation.

### **ABOUT MOCAD**

The Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD) is an innovative addition to Detroit's vibrant Midtown neighborhood, and functions as a hub for the exploration of emerging ideas in the contemporary arts. As a non-collecting institution, MOCAD is responsive to the cultural content of our time, fueling crucial dialogue, collaboration, and public engagement. The Museum is located between the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and the Detroit Institute of the Arts, Wayne State University, and the College for Creative Studies. The cavernous 22,000 square foot building, a former auto dealership, has been simply renovated to maintain its raw historic character. MOCAD's ambitious series of public programs includes lectures, musical performances, films, literary readings and educational activities for area youth. Mobile Homestead, by late artist Mike Kelley, is a permanent artwork located on the grounds of the museum. It is both a public sculpture and a private, personal construction – based on the artist's childhood home on Palmer Road in Westland. The ground floor serves as a community event space by and for a diverse public, as Kelley intended. MOCAD is generously supported by individual members, private and corporate foundations, and government agencies. More information can be found at [www.mocadetroit.org](http://www.mocadetroit.org).

The Mike Kelley *Mobile Homestead* is commissioned by Artangel in association with MOCAD, LUMA Foundation and Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts with the generous support of the Artangel International Circle. Support for the Mike Kelley *Mobile Homestead* is provided by the Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts.

Presenting sponsorship for *TOM House: The Work and Life of Tom of Finland* is provided by Equality Michigan. Generous support is provided by Anonymous, Christopher Burcham, David Kordansky Gallery—Los Angeles, Gretchen + Ethan Davidson, Doc Duhan, Nicole + Stephen Eisenberg, Sid Galton, Stephen Krawchuk, Jeff + Loren Gillis Newsom, Rob Hennig, CV Henriette, Colt Mix, Brien O'Brien, Daniel Parente, Stefano Pilati, Print Cache, Red Bull, Michael Reynolds, Rizzoli International Publications, Mayer Rus, the Shipley-Miller Foundation, Takoi, Ben White Levin, and Jon Wright. Generous in-kind support provided by Pabst Blue Ribbon.

#### **ABOUT THE TOM OF FINLAND FOUNDATION**

In 1984, the nonprofit Tom of Finland Foundation was established by Durk Dehner (Canadian, 1949- ) and his friend Tom of Finland (Touko Laaksonen, Finnish, 1920-1991). As Tom established worldwide recognition as the master of homo-erotic art, the Foundation's original purpose was to preserve his vast catalog of work. Several years later the mission broadened to offer a safe haven for all erotic art in response to rampant discrimination against art that portrayed sexual behavior or generated a sexual response. Today the Foundation continues its efforts of educating the public on the cultural merits of erotic art and in promoting healthier, progressive attitudes about sexuality.

#### **PRESS CONTACTS**

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#### **MUSEUM CONTACTS:**

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#### **MOCAD Support**

MOCAD exhibitions and public programs are supported by the A. Alfred Taubman Foundation.

MOCAD Operations are supported by Masco Corporation Foundation, Erb Family Foundation, The Kresge Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs, Quicken Loans, the J. Christopher and Anne Reyes Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

MOCAD's 2016-2021 Strategic Planning Initiative is funded in part by a generous grant from the Kresge Foundation.

Curatorial support is provided by the Susanne Feld Hilberry Endowment for the Arts.

The Ford Curatorial Fellows at MOCAD are supported by the Ford Foundation.

MOCAD Capital support is provided by the Michigan Council for Art and Cultural Affairs and Audio Rescue Team.

Mike Kelley's *Mobile Homestead* is commissioned by Artangel in association with MOCAD, LUMA Foundation and Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts with the generous support of the Artangel International Circle. Support for Mike Kelley's *Mobile Homestead* is provided by the Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts and the MOCAD Leadership Circle.

The J. Christopher and Anne Reyes Foundation has generously provided support for education and outreach.

The ESB/SKS Junior Docents and other educational programs are supported by the Edith S. Briskin/Shirley K. Schlafer Foundation.

MOCAD Youth Programs are graciously funded by the the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Neiman Marcus, the Applebaum Family Compass Fund, MGM Resorts Foundation, the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, the Michigan Council for Art and Cultural Affairs, and MGM Grand Detroit.

MOCAD would like to thank our Leadership Circle (Jennifer and David Fischer, Elyse and David Foltyn, Linda Dresner and Ed Levy, Marsha and Jeffrey Miro, Roz and Scott Jacobson, Sonia and Keith Pomeroy, Sandy Seligman and Gil Glassberg, and, Julie Reyes Taubman and Robert Taubman) for making these programs possible: Mike Kelley's *Mobile Homestead*, Lectures, Poetry, Performance Art, Exhibitions, Film, DEPE Space, Music, Family Day, Public Programming, Education, Literature, and Museum Operations.



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