



Museum of
Contemporary Art
Detroit

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 1, 2018

STANDING STILL, LYING DOWN, AS IF

Friday, October 26, 2018 – Sunday, January 6, 2019

**MOCAD announces a major group exhibition exploring the framed
and predetermined environment**

**The group exhibition and public programs presented at MOCAD
Featuring an off-site exhibition project presented at Eastern Market, Detroit
in collaboration with Red Bull Arts Detroit**

ON VIEW October 26, 2018 – January 6, 2019

Curated by Ouliana Ermolova, Ford Curatorial Fellow

The Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD) is pleased to announce the opening of *Standing Still, Lying Down, As If*.

Motivated by the inevitability of our engagement with the pre-established conventions—and by a question of “What happens when a framework is misused?”—*Standing Still, Lying Down, As If* expands on a vocabulary related to the need to engage with the framed and predetermined environment, bringing together works by nearly 30 artists whose art making methods are developing in response to the established frameworks of communication, production, and distribution.

Standing Still, Lying Down, As If references the 2003 exhibition curated by Matthew Higgs at White Columns in New York City entitled *Post No Bills*. The exhibition surveyed, by way of an artist-made poster, the current artistic oscillations into “...the polemical space...” of public communication “...as a vehicle for [artists] ideas.” *Standing Still, Lying Down*, re-formulates the definition of a poster as a “framed space” to facilitate another inquiry into how the artists today identify and utilize these polemical spaces.

The large-scale group exhibition collects works that propose distinct approaches to the ‘framed space’ and challenge the established values within display, art making and art market. Some works in the exhibition are dispersed throughout the museum and some will develop over the course of the time. Together these multi-modal approaches aim to create a continuous and inquisitive environment for the viewer, offering a primer for active engagement with one’s own

surroundings. Artist-led events will take place at the museum over exhibition's opening weekend.

Concurrently, MOCAD will be working in collaboration with Red Bull Arts Detroit on a special exhibition project in Eastern Market neighborhood that extends the conversation away from the museum walls. The off-site component of the exhibition features Mieke Gerritzen and Iman Raad, two artists who will respond to some of the themes prevalent in *Standing Still, Lying Down, As If* in the form of two large-scale outdoor installations.

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

Alberto Aguilar, Efe Bes, Beni Bischof, Ernest A. Bryant III, Caroline Chandler, Wayne Curtis, Mieke Gerritzen, Joel Holmberg, David Horvitz, Ashton Hudgins, Patrick Meagher, Anne Elizabeth Moore, Trevor Naud, Wyatt Niehaus, Iman Raad, Adriana Ramić, David Reinfurt, Tylonn Sawyer, Kateřina Šedá, Jordan Seiler, Amy Small, Travess Smalley, Youngeun Sohn, Wesley Taylor and Complex Movements with Siwatu-Salama Ra, Nora Turato, Polina Vasilyeva, Vanessa Viruet, Mike Wrathell, Alivia Zivich, A March Issue

OPENING RECEPTION

Friday, October 26, 2018, 6:00pm to 11pm

Admission: Free (\$5 suggested donation)

Join us at MOCAD on Friday, October 26 as we celebrate the opening of *Standing Still, Lying Down, As If*. There will be a series of programming during the evening including a conversation between artists **Adriana Ramić** and **Patrick Meagher** at 6:30pm followed by a special performance by exhibiting artist **Efe Bes** will begin at 8:30pm.

TALK

Adriana Ramić and Patrick Meagher
introduce *Standing Still, Lying Down, As If*

Friday, October 26, 6:30pm

Admission: Free (\$5 suggested donation)

Join artists Adriana Ramić and Patrick Meagher as they introduce and evaluate exhibition's themes by discussing questions that are pertinent to their work, around intuitive means of working with computation, data re-interpretation, and what does it mean to re-materialize a system of cognition into a physical space. The conversation will be followed by Q&A discussion with the audience.

Adriana Ramić is based in New York City. Ramić's work focuses on translation and reconfiguration as a means of reencoding disparate or illegible materials. Computation and artificial intelligence techniques inform these interpretations, from melancholic idiosyncrasies of machine learning research to crude facsimiles of comprehensible

computation. Ramić's most recent body of work, *Machine that the larvae of configuration*, spans the outgrowths of an image recognition program written by the artist. The program, BUBAMARA-OCR, uses computer vision algorithms to remap each image as a sequence of letters, with ladybugs as the intermediary. This year, she will be releasing a publication with the Institute for Interspecies Art and Relations.

Patrick Meagher lives and works in New York City. Meagher's art explores how the digital age affects us spiritually and emotionally. Working in computer-generated collage, sculpture, and other media, his work asks how humans will evolve in an era of transgressive technology and increasingly virtual interactions. Exploring notions of space and dimensionality, his process focuses on digital production, timeliness of subject matter, and information and resource sharing. His collaborative projects such as Collective Show and the Silvershed are lateral structures to create organizational formats, spaces, and social environments: event-based happenings and groups that explore ethics and personal agency as part of studio practice. Meagher is currently working on bringing next installment of the Collective Show to Detroit.

PERFORMANCE

Efe Bes *Standing Still, Lying Down, As If Mary Johnson*

Friday, October 26, 8:30pm

Join prolific storyteller and teacher Efe Bes for a multilayered drumming performance combining traditional drums and contemporary beats.

Efe Bes, a Central African native born in Detroit, MI is the founder and lead musician of the Bambuti music and movement group. Efe has performed locally, nationally, and internationally with music notables such as Alicia Keys, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and is a Parliament Funkadelic alum. Efe has been a featured artist at the Henry Ford Museum, Detroit African World Festivals, and was recently announced as a 2016 Detroit Afrikan Music Institution artist-in-residence.

WORKSHOP

***Standing Still, Lying Down, As If In The Art Field* with Polina Vasilyeva**

Saturday, October 27, 1pm

Admission: Free (\$5 suggested donation)

Using the perimeter of the museum gallery as a stage, artist and designer Polina Vasilyeva will conduct a performative workshop. The workshop will include an improvised history lesson, a scene rehearsal, and a final performance which will be video documented by the participating audience members and broadcasted via social media. Space is limited, please RSVP (with your first and last name) at rsvp@mocadetroit.org.

Polina Vasilyeva is a designer and an artist born in Saint-Petersburg, Russia and is currently based in New York. Vasilyeva attended Gerrit Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam,

and received her MFA from Yale School of Art. She is a communication designer and educator currently working collaboratively across an expansive range of media. Vasilyeva specializes in developing new strategies that engage the public through existing and novel modes of cultural interface. By employing performance in which the audience plays an active role, she believes that the designer is a conductor of visual systems through which content is presented to the world. Vasilyeva has several ongoing collaborations with Detroit-based artists and has most recently conducted an all-day performative workshop as a part of Hamtramck Arts Festival 2016.

MORE ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Standing Still, Lying Down, As If is organized by the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit and curated by Ouliana Ermolova, Ford Curatorial Fellow, with assistance from Amber Beasley, MOCAD Exhibitions Intern, and with support from Red Bull Arts Detroit.

Exhibitions and public programs at MOCAD are supported by the A. Alfred Taubman Foundation. Support for exhibitions and educational initiatives is provided by the Edith S. Briskin/Shirley K. Schlafer Foundation. The Ford Curatorial Fellows at MOCAD are supported by the Ford Foundation.

ABOUT RED BULL ARTS DETROIT

Red Bull Arts Detroit is an artist residency, visiting curator and writer fellowship, micro-grant program, and experimental, non-commercial exhibition space. Since 2011, the organization has ensured a sustained commitment to the cultivation and advancement of the arts in Detroit and beyond. In 2018, Red Bull Arts Detroit joined Red Bull Arts New York as the second pillar of the Red Bull Arts platform. Located in Eastern Market's historic E&B Brewery, the organization (formerly known as Red Bull House of Art) has hosted over 100 resident artists, and served countless community members through exhibitions, studio assistantships, and inclusion in a variety of programs. In 2018, Red Bull Arts Detroit joined Red Bull Arts New York in the Red Bull Arts Network, focusing on creating new opportunities for artists and fostering public engagement in the arts. The program aims to extend the boundaries of exhibition making; support the production of new work by emerging and established artists; participate in and respond to the needs of local arts communities; and contribute to ongoing dialogue around contemporary issues and thought.

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

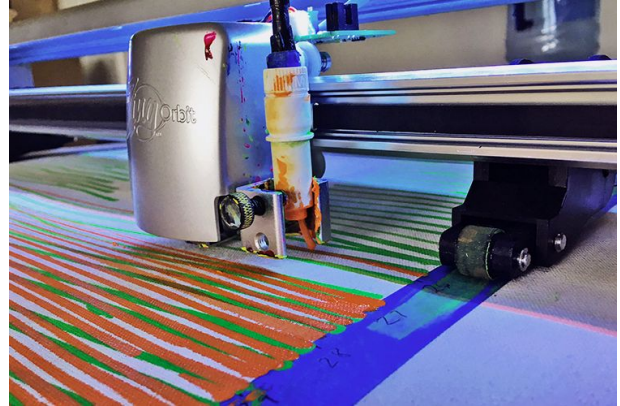
character. MOCAD's ambitious series of public programs includes lectures, musical performances, films, literary readings, and educational activities for area youth. MOCAD is generously supported by individual members, private and corporate foundations, and government agencies. More information can be found at mocadetroit.org



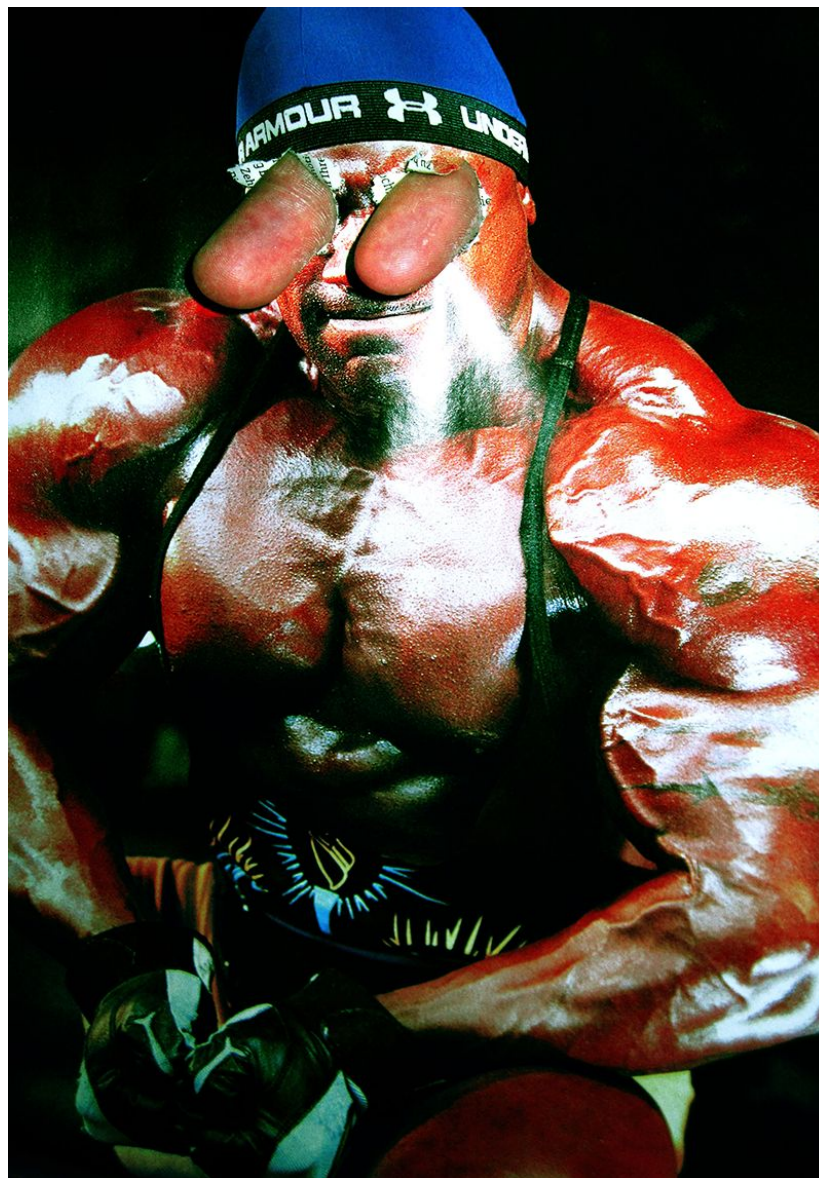
David Horvitz, *For Kiyoko, From Amache*, 2016



A March Issue (Sonia Oet and Line Arngaard) 2018



Left: Travess Smalley, studio view, 2018 / Right: Joel Holmberg, studio view, 2018



Beni Bischof, Sausage Power, 2011



Adriana Ramić, *Machine that the larvae of configuration*, 2017



Efe Bes



Polina Vasilyeva with Ekaterina Kholyapina, *Post-Internet Drawing Lessons: Students of Het Geert Groote College rethinking the city-planning of Amsterdam, 2015*