



**Press Release**  
Museum of Contemporary  
Art Detroit

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 21, 2016

**MOCAD OPENS FOUR NEW EXHIBITIONS**

*The Architectural Imagination, Detroit Affinities: Adriana Martínez, Five Rings, and HOME: Detroit Society of Women Painters and Sculptors*  
Opening February, 11 2017

*The Architectural Imagination*

On view February 11 - April 16, 2017

Believing in the potential of architecture to catalyze change, the curators selected visionary American architectural practices to address these futures.

MOCAD brings *The Architectural Imagination* exhibition home to Detroit



Image: US Pavilion and Courtyard, *The Architectural Imagination* 2016, Venice, Italy

Detroit, Michigan, December 2016, the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit will open *The Architectural Imagination*, an exhibition of new speculative architectural projects organized by the University of Michigan. The exhibition was designed for specific sites in Detroit, coming to MOCAD in February direct from Venice, Italy, where it was shown for six months in the United States Pavilion at the Venice Biennale International Architecture Exhibition.

Occupying MOCAD's major exhibition gallery and curated by Cynthia Davidson and Mónica Ponce de León, the exhibition emphasizes the importance of imagination in shaping forms and spaces that have the potential to open up new ideas about living in the postindustrial city. As the birthplace of the automobile industry, the free-span factory floor, the concrete paved road, and Motown and techno music, Detroit was considered a center of American imagination, not only for the automobiles it made but also for its modern architecture and modern lifestyle. Like many post-industrial cities that have lost population, Detroit now faces a changed landscape, but its role as a design center is strong. As advocates of the power of architecture to catalyze cities, curators Davidson and Ponce de León challenged **12 visionary American architectural practices** to demonstrate the creativity and resourcefulness of architecture to address the social, environmental, and design issues of 21st-century Detroit.

"Detroit has been a world model for accelerated change in technology, urban design, civil rights and labor rights," said **University of Michigan interim Dean and architectural historian Robert Fishman**. "No other city has seen such highs and lows in the span of 100 years. With its mix of idealism and disruption, Detroit has the potential to serve as a new model for community relations and development. We are pleased to bring this exhibition, full of brilliant and thought-provoking work, home to Detroit."

According to **Cynthia Davidson, executive director** of the nonprofit architecture think tank Anyone Corporation, based in New York, and editor of the international architecture journal Log, "These projects propose powerful ideas and architectural forms that will seem both liberating and alien, intended as they are to challenge the status quo and raise it to another level." **Mónica Ponce de León**, AIA, formerly dean of University of Michigan Taubman College, of Architecture and Urban Planning, is dean of Princeton University School of Architecture and founding principal of MPdL Studio (Ann Arbor, Boston, and New York).

*The Architectural Imagination* focuses on four sites in Detroit, selected by the curators from the recommendations of an 11-member Detroit advisory group. The architects met with community members to discuss possible programs and then produced 12 distinctive architectural projects, three for each site, that demonstrate multiple programmatic and design ideas. The proposals include a botanical garden, a research and fulfillment center, and a building materials recycling complex for the historic Packard Plant; public market spaces, housing, and clean-air technology for a site in Southwest Detroit; a performance venue, waterfront amenities, and an urban forest supporting high-density housing at the site of the USPS sorting facility fronting the Detroit River; and a school, public buildings, and live/work spaces for a patchwork site along the Dequindre Cut Greenway in Eastern Market. The exhibition comprises more than 250 objects, including drawings, large-scale models, photo collages, videos, and customized viewfinders. Taken together, the 2 projects offer a basis for new conversations about architecture in Detroit and the design excellence its residents deserve as the city evolves in the 21st century.

**Executive Director, Elysia Borowy-Reeder** says that MOCAD is the perfect museum to restage the thought provoking exhibition. "Like many post-industrial cities, Detroit is coping with the effects of a declining population and an urban landscape complicated with pockets of blight. Nonetheless, having emerged from bankruptcy, there is new excitement in Detroit to imagine the city's possible futures, both in the downtown core and in its many neighborhoods. This exhibition helps seed new thinking for what can happen in regards to future design in Detroit."

Participants: **A(n) Office**, Detroit, MI; **BairBalliet**, Columbus, OH and Chicago, IL; Greg Lynn **FORM**, Los Angeles, CA; **Mack Scogin Merrill Elam Architects**, Atlanta, GA; **Marshall Brown Projects**, Chicago, IL; **MOS**, New York, NY; **Pita & Bloom**, Los Angeles, CA; **Present Future**, Houston, TX; **Preston Scott Cohen Inc.**, Cambridge, MA; **SAA/Stan Allen Architect**, New York, NY; **T+E+A+M**, Ann Arbor, MI; **Zago Architecture**, Los Angeles, CA

The U.S. Department of State, as a supporter of the U.S. Pavilion at the 2016 Venice Architecture Biennale, selected **University of Michigan Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning** to organize the exhibition of the United States Pavilion in the 2016 Venice Architecture Biennale.

*The Architectural Imagination* is supported by the U.S. Department of State, University of Michigan Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Log, Oldcastle BuildingEnvelope, Princeton University School of Architecture, The Graham Foundation, Dassault Systèmes, AIA, Architectural Record, Knight Foundation, Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, Shinola, Deshler, GS3, Global Transportation Management, Aperol, Microsoft HoloLens, The Westin Europa and Regina, SCI-Arc, Harvard University Graduate School of Design, and the University of Michigan Museum of Art.

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***Detroit Affinities: Adriana Martínez***

February 11 through April 23, 2017

Curated by MOCAD's Susanne Feld Hilberry Senior Curator at Large Jens Hoffmann



Images: Adriana Martínez, *Bananas!*, 2016, Plastic bananas, stickers, wood boxes.

Photography by Santiago Pinyol, Carne Gallery.

Adriana Martínez (b.1988) is a contemporary artist born and based in Bogotá, Colombia. Founder and member of the independent space MIAMI (since 2011) and the artist-run gallery Carne (since 2014) both active in Bogotá. Martínez received her fine arts degree from Universidad de los Andes in Colombia and a postgraduate residency degree from ISA, Havana, Cuba. She approaches subjects such as the aesthetics of money, information, food and garbage in various techniques and ways that can relate with her interest in a growing and shared experimentation of the everyday. **MOCAD's Susanne Feld Hilberry Senior Curator at Large Jens Hoffmann** says, "Cultural identities and their histories are often multilayered, conflicted, and vary in many ways. Yet, the subjects Colombian artist Adriana Martinez, part of a younger generation of Latin American that are breaking out of their immediate region, correlate to larger and perhaps more universal issues that have impacts around the world. Bringing a poetic yet critical sensibility to the international stage her work revolves around subjects such as the global economy, commerce and transportation often based on the classic gesture of the readymade that is uncovering how collective memory and sociopolitical imperatives can define cultural production."

About Adriana Martínez

Born in 1988, Martinez is part of a younger generation of Latin American artists bringing a poetic yet critical sensibility to the international stage. Martinez was raised in Colombia, and has never lived elsewhere. She studied art at the Universidad De Los Andes in Bogotá, where she is now based. Martinez shares her interests and to some degree her sensibility with Cuban artists like Wilfredo Prieto, Humberto Diaz, and Rafael Villares; and with the Colombian artists she works with everyday: Santiago Pinyol, Mariana Murcia, Juan Sebastian Pelaez, and Ana Maria Millan. As a compliment to her artistic practice, Martinez operates the art space MIAMI in Bogotá: a collaborative studio and project space that she



founded with Pelaez in 2011. Together with a compendium of artist-run spaces from around Bogotá, Martinez is also a part of the gallery Carne, which was founded in 2014 and which already participated in several international art fairs by renting nearby Airbnbs as somewhat illicit art fair booths. Extending her artistic practice into these other venues, Martinez is able to be in continual conversations with other Latin American artists, to put theories about cultural exchange and capital into practice, and to experiment with forms of display and presentation that feed back into her own artwork.

#### DETROIT CITY

A multi-year program of exhibitions (*Detroit Affinities*), performances (*Detroit Stages*), educational programs and publications (*Detroit Speaks*), DETROIT CITY places local artists in a global context while investigating the city's current artistic, political, cultural, and economic realities. Presenting sequential solo exhibitions by Detroit artists and artists from elsewhere, the *Detroit Affinities* series seeks to reveal correspondences, similarities, and differences in the artist's' respective practices. This multi-year research program is one of the most ambitious undertakings to date at MOCAD.

DETROIT CITY funding is provided by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, and the Ric & Suzanne Kayne Foundation.

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Mike Kelley's *Mobile Homestead*

#### HOME: Detroit Society of Women Painters and Sculptors

February 11 through May 14, 2017



Image: Erica Chappuis, *Sailor's Wife* 2014, mixed media

Situated inside of *Mobile Homestead* - an exact replica of artist Mike Kelley's childhood home - this exhibition, entitled *HOME*, features artwork made by members of the Detroit Society of Women Painters and Sculptors (DSWPS) that reflects the idea of home as a physical place, a city, objects within a space as well as a person or a group of people.

Founded in 1903, the DSWPS is one of the oldest self-sustaining women's organizations both in Detroit and the United States. Its mission since inception has been to quicken the interest in art movements of the day, stimulate high achievement, active work, and mutual helpfulness among members, and to provide encouragement and support for art students. During the run of the exhibition, DSWPS members will be onsite in a live interactive studio space to provide demonstrations on various techniques and host workshops and discussions.

*HOME* is juried by Dominic Pangborn, a Detroit native since the mid-1970s whose design aesthetic over the years became synonymous with Metro Detroit. Over the years Dominic has had design studios based in Detroit, Chicago, New York, and Tokyo.

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.

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#### DEPE SPACE EXHIBITION

***Five Rings: Dana Hoey with the Police Athletic League, Detroit Jiu Jitsu, Anthony Geathers, and Michelle Keim***

February 11 through May 7, 2017



Image: Dana Hoey, Still from *Fighters*, 2015, unprinted (virtual poster). Courtesy of the artist and Peztel Gallery

Dana Hoey's DEPE Space Residency project at MOCAD combines photography, video, and martial arts classes to call upon the history of the Police Athletic League in Detroit and the philosophy behind the martial art of jiu-jitsu to examine ways in which to foster bonds between police officers and the communities they serve. Linking the arts and concepts of social engagement, the project offers the educational and interactive experience of free jiu-jitsu self defense classes to young women from the Police Athletic League and the local community. Visitors will be able to witness these classes as they are held in the museum and through video documentation filmed by the artist. Additionally, the exhibition features portraits of Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) and Invicta fighters by photographers Michelle

Keim and Anthony Geathers along with other video work by Hoey.

#### DEPE SPACE RESIDENCY

The DEPE (Department of Education and Public Engagement) Space residency and exhibition series presents interdisciplinary art that serves as a catalyst for learning and transformative conversation about complex social issues. DEPE Space offers opportunities to reflect upon the personal relevance of these topics and how they relate to communities in Detroit and throughout the world.

DEPE Space is supported by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

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#### **OPENING EVENT - February 11, 2017**

**Join us for the opening celebration of four new exhibitions, *The Architectural Imagination, Detroit Affinities: Adriana Martínez, Five Rings: Dana Hoey, and HOME: Detroit Society of Women Painters and Sculptors.***

**Support for the opening reception generously provided by Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning and Architectural Record.**

Saturday, February 11, 2017

Member Only Preview: 3-4pm

The Architectural Imagination Curator's Talk: 4-6pm

Opening Reception: 6-9pm

Performance: 9-10pm

Admission before 9pm: Free

Admission after 9pm: \$12 (\$7 for members)

Join or renew your membership at the door and receive free admission to all of the opening night festivities plus discounts in the store and cafe. Support arts in Detroit!

#### **CURATORS TALK**

Curators of *The Architectural Imagination*, Cynthia Davidson and Mónica Ponce de León, discuss their experience with the Venice Biennale, the speculative architecture projects included in the exhibition and the visionary thinking behind them. Cynthia Davidson is Executive Director of the nonprofit architecture think tank Anyone Corporation, based in New York, and editor of the international architecture journal, *Log*. Mónica Ponce de León, AIA, formerly Dean of Taubman College, is Dean of Princeton University School of Architecture and Founding Principal of MPdL Studio (Ann Arbor, Boston, and New York). The discussion will be introduced by Robert Fishman, Interim Dean, Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.

#### **MUSIC**

The Black Opera is rap's first performing arts group. Comprised of well-known artists with roots from Nigeria, Uganda, Madagascar, France and the United States, the collective has chosen to hide their identities for the sake of making the following statement: Art is all that matters. They thrive on anonymity for their selfless cause, losing themselves in a different character's costume for each song during the performance. For years, The Black Opera has sent warnings and many have assumed their operations were limited to underground societies and secret networks. Little did they know, The Black Opera has been among us all along. Like "The Purloined Letter" by Edgar Allan Poe, the best way to hide something is to keep it in plain sight.

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## MUSEUM CONTACTS:

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## MOCAD Support

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*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 art work 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 [mocadetroit.org](http://mocadetroit.org).*

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