



Press Release

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 28, 2015

Winter 2015 Exhibitions and Programs at MOCAD

On View: February 6 - March 29, 2015

MOCAD presents Ragnar Kjartansson, Jamian Juliano-Villani, and Tirtza Even

EXHIBITION

The End by Ragnar Kjartansson

Ragnar Kjartansson is known for his spectacular, music-filled performative live installations and video work. The history of film, music, theater, visual culture, and literature finds its way into his videos, durational performances, drawings, and paintings. Filmed in Banff, Alberta, *The End* is a five-channel video installation synched together as a country music arrangement in the key of G. Produced with the support of The Banff Centre for the Icelandic Pavilion at the 53rd Venice Biennale, the piece was developed by Kjartansson in collaboration with Icelandic musician Davíð Þór Jónsson. Kjartansson studied at the Iceland Academy of the Arts. He was born in 1976 in Reykjavík, where he still lives and works today. MOCAD presents *The End* as the beginning of a two-year partnership with Ragnar Kjartansson. In February of 2016, MOCAD will present a newly commissioned work. This exhibition has been organized by the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit and is curated by MOCAD Executive Director Elysia Borowy-Reeder and MOCAD Senior Curator at Large Jens Hoffmann.



Image Credit: © Ragnar Kjartansson, courtesy of the artist, Luhring Augustine, New York, and i8 Gallery, Reykjavik.

DETROIT CITY

Detroit Affinities: Jamian Juliano-Villani

MOCAD presents DETROIT CITY, a multiyear program of exhibitions, talks, publications, and educational initiatives investigating Detroit's current artistic, political, cultural, and economic realities, and how Detroit connects with other cities and regions around the globe. *Detroit Affinities* is organized by the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit and curated by MOCAD Senior Curator at Large Jens Hoffmann.

The second segment in the *Detroit Affinities* series spotlights the work of New York artist Jamian Juliano-Villani, marking her first solo museum exhibition. Juliano-Villani creates expansive, chaotic scenes painted in a bright, intense palette. Her work is informed by a wide range of sources, including modernist abstract painting, Japanese pen and ink drawings, and 1930s and 1980s American cartoons, including Ralph Bakshi's curvaceous women. She was born in 1987 in Newark, New Jersey and currently lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

Image Credit: Jamian Juliano-Villani, *Double Dose*, 2014, courtesy of the artist and MOCAD, acrylic on canvas, 36 x 24 inches.

DEPE
SPACE
RESID
ENCY
*Natural
Life* by
Tirtza
Even



February 6 - March 29

DEPE Space (Department of Education and Public Engagement) artist Tirtza Even presents *Natural Life*, an experimental documentary installation produced in conjunction with the legal efforts of The Law Offices of Deborah LaBelle. *Natural Life* challenges inequities in the juvenile justice system by depicting the stories of six youths who received the most severe sentence available for convicted adults: being sentenced to die in prison (i.e. given a sentence of “natural life” or “life without parole”). These stories are presented against the overlapping contexts of social bias, neglect, apprehension, and alienation. *Natural Life* is organized by the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit and curated by MOCAD Curator of Education and Public Engagement Amy Corle.



The Department of Education and Public Engagement develops adventurous, multidisciplinary programming in which the Museum and the City of Detroit function as sites for investigation and experimentation. MOCAD curators and invited guests work with international and local communities to produce events and projects that are rigorous and innovative. The Department of Education and Public Engagement aspires to support youth and adults in learning and growing as free thinkers, to be culturally inclusive, artistically forward-thinking, and intellectually ambitious.

Image Credit: *Natural Life*, 2014, courtesy of the artist and MOCAD.

Vdrome

Vdrome is on view at MOCAD and online, organized by Edoardo Bonaspetti, Jens Hoffmann, Andrea Lissoni, and Filipa Ramos, exhibiting an ongoing program of rotating film and video works, directed by visual artists and filmmakers whose production lies in between contemporary art and cinema.

Exhibition programming support is generously provided by the Taubman Foundation. Additional funding for programming and educational initiatives is provided by the Edith S. Briskin/Shirley K. Schlafer Foundation. MOCAD is supported by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts. DETROIT CITY funding is provided by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Kayne Foundation, Quicken Loans, Andre Sakai, Liz and Jonathan Goldman, Jane Sutor, Scholar, Properties Ltd, Jasmin Tsou, Krawiecki Gazes Family, Kimberly Brown, William Leung. DETROIT SPEAKS funding is provided by the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. MOCAD Youth Programs are graciously funded by the General Motors Foundation and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

UPCOMING PUBLIC PROGRAMS

READING

Luc Sante

Wednesday, February 4, 7pm

Admission: Free

Writer and cultural critic Luc Sante has been praised by *The New York Times Book Review* as having “a talent for the striking, impressionistic insight and the ability to write transcendental prose.” Sante reveals fascinating secret histories in a rich, anecdotal style, which has led *New Yorker* art critic Peter Schjeldahl



to exclaim that Sante is “one of the handful of living masters of the American language, as well as a singular historian and philosopher of American experience.” Sante is the author of the books *Lowlife: Lures and Snares of Old New York*, *Kill All Your Darlings: Pieces 1990-2005*, and *Folk Photography: the American Real Photo Postcard, 1905-1930*. At MOCAD, Sante reads from his essays and creative nonfiction. Please also join us at Cranbrook Art Museum’s deSalle Auditorium at 7pm on Tuesday, Feb. 3 for Sante’s presentation on vernacular photography.

WINTER 2015 EXHIBITION OPENING NIGHT

Friday, February 6, 2015, 7pm

Free for MOCAD members; \$10 for non-members after 9pm

Advance tickets available [here](#)



Schedule for the Evening

6pm - 7pm: MOCAD Member preview

6:15pm: Gallery talk

7pm - 9pm: Public preview

10pm: Concert with Dobule Winter, followed by Protomartyr (Galleries close when concert begins)

MOCAD kicks off its next exhibition season with performances by the internationally renowned, Detroit-based band, Protomartyr, along with Double Winter.

EXHIBITION TALK

Jamian Juliano-Villani in conversation with Jens Hoffmann

Saturday, February 7, 1pm

Admission: Free

Detroit Affinities artist Jamian Juliano-Villani and MOCAD Senior Curator at Large Jens Hoffmann discuss the artist's work the afternoon after the Winter Exhibitions opening.

DETROIT STAGES

Matthew Daher: EP release performance

Friday, February 13, 8pm

Admission: \$5 (free for members)

Dwelling Lightheartedly in the Futility of Everything is the latest release from Detroit drummer/composer/producer Matthew Daher. The culmination of four years of explorations in groove-driven songwriting, with studio production guided by electroacoustic gesture and manipulation, *Dwelling* weaves ambient, noise, and postrock sensibilities into cerebral and emotive compositions inspired by artists such as Georgia Anne Muldrow, J Dilla, and Björk. Developed around the music of the release, this evening's multimedia performance features Detroit video and movement artists and explores themes addressed in the compositions: infinite regress, meditation, chronic anxiety, and the volatility of romantic emotional entanglement.

PENNY STAMPS ON THE ROAD / ART AS SOCIAL FORCE TALK

Jose Miguel Sokoloff

Friday, February 20, 7pm

Admission: Free



As President of Lowe and Partners Global Creative Council, an executive Jose Miguel Sokoloff has led a multi-year, award-winning marketing campaign on behalf of Colombia's Ministry of Defense against the guerrilla war in Colombia, persuading guerrilla fighters to demobilize. He passionately believes in using creative thinking and innovation, interactive campaign strategy, and powerful storytelling to bring an end to a war he has lived with all his life. Sokoloff remains dedicated to being a part of the evolving peace process in his homeland. He is the recipient of the prestigious Titanium Lion, a UK IPA Effectiveness Grand Prix, a Jay Chiat Grand Prix, and an El Ojo Grand Prix. His agency, Lowe SSP3, was awarded Advertising Age's International Agency of the Year in 2013.

LECTURE

DETROIT SPEAKS: JEFFEREY ABT

Saturday, February 21, 1pm

Admission: Free

Jeffrey Abt, professor of art and art history at Wayne State University, discusses the origins of Detroit's contemporary art world as reflected by area museums and institutions.

MUSIC

Cakes Da Killa wsg Uniiqu3 and Miz Korona

Sunday, February 22, 8pm

Admission: \$10 (\$5 for members)

Born Rashard Bradshaw, Cakes Da Killa is a 24-year-old hip hop artist. As an openly gay man, he's not your run-of-the-mill rapper, but he just might be your new favorite. Cakes Da Killa steps on the scene with a fresh look, sound, and indisputable lyrics that match a big personality. Prolific and ambitious at an early age, he's becoming a hot commodity on the music scene and club circuit. He's been compared to Lil' Kim due to his wild raunchiness. His risqué lyrics, rebellious attitude, and throwback '90s beats have made him a big hit. Cakes fuses NYC ballroom culture, hardcore hip hop, and raw vocal talent into an infectious witches brew. Cakes' witty word play has made him the MC to look out for right now.

HAPPENING

Oliver Payne's Chill Out

Thursday, March 5, 8pm

Admission: Free

No phones, no photography, no talking, no late entry, no ins and outs. Bring a blanket and pillow, turn on, switch off, and listen to *Chill Out* by the KLF. Performance begins at 9pm sharp. Oliver Payne (b. 1977) has been hailed by Artforum as "one of the great kids of the post-YBA moment." He and longtime collaborator Nick Relphs won the Golden Lion award for best artists under 35 at the 2003 Venice Biennale.

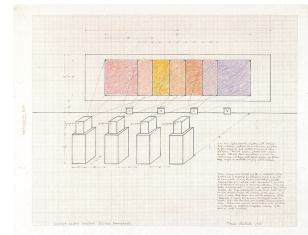
FILM

Projection Instructions

Saturday, March 7, 8pm

Admission: \$5 (free for members)

MOCAD, Mothlight Microcinema, and the Film-Makers' Cooperative present an evening of seminal and rarely-screened avant garde cinema. Each of the films shown requires that the presenter follow special instructions to screen them properly. Multiple projections, super-impositions, unconventional angles, external sound, light, and actions: this will be a rare opportunity to see these experimental classics of expanded cinema as they intended. Featuring work by Storm de Hirsch, Ken Jacobs, Malcolm LeGrice, Rose Lowder, and Paul Sharits.



PENNY STAMPS ON THE ROAD

Casey Reas

Friday, March 13, 7pm

Admission: Free

Casey Reas writes software to explore conditional systems as art. Using emergent networks and layered instructions, he has created a unique area of visual experience that builds upon concrete art, conceptual art, experimental animation, and drawing. While dynamic, generative software remains his core medium, work in variable media (including prints, objects, installations, and performances) materializes from his visual systems.

OPEN DRAWING SESSION + ARTIST TALK

MOCAD and Green Brain Comics present the 6th Annual Comic Jam with guest artist Phoebe Gloeckner

Saturday, March 14, 5pm to 8pm

Admission: Free

All are welcome to jam! Participants create spontaneous, improvised, collaborative comics and free-form drawings together. Following the jam session, acclaimed graphic novelist Phoebe Gloeckner will talk about her art and career. Her book, *The Diary of a Teenage Girl* (2002), was praised as "one of the most brutally honest, shocking, tender, beautiful portrayals of growing up female in America." R. Crumb called her story *Minnie's Third Love* one of the "comic book masterpieces of all time." Gloeckner continues to experiment with technology and the form of the novel. She is striving to create an electronic "multi-touch" book offering a seamless reading experience, a work that feels to be of one piece rather than an "enhanced" novel with multi-media annotations and side matter. Gloeckner is an assistant professor in the Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design at the University of Michigan.



FILM

MOCAD and Freep Film Festival present *The Jitterbugs: Pioneers of the Jit* with *Detroit Overture*

Friday, March 20, 8pm

Admission: \$10 (\$9 for students, seniors, and members)

The origins of the distinctive Detroit dance known as the Jit are explored in *The Jitterbugs: Pioneers of the Jit* (2014), a feature-length documentary by dancer-director Haleem “Stringz” Rasul. Elements of street dancing, Motown, acrobatics, and hip-hop meld in this quick-moving form, birthed in the late '70s by Detroit's McGhee brothers, who led a dance group known as the Jitterbugs. The film shows the McGhees' rise and struggles—and how their influence continues to resonate. Preceded by Vienna-based filmmaker Lisa Kortschak's short, *Detroit Overture* (2015). For more info about these films and the entire Freep Film Festival (March 19 to 22), go to freepfilmfestival.com.

FAMILY DAY EXTRAVAGANZA

Make a Magical Stuffed Animal with Melissa Dettloff

Sunday, March 22, Noon to 4pm

Admission: Free

Let your child's imagination run wild! MOCAD's Family Day Extravaganza features craft making, live music, tasty snacks and lots of family fun. Detroit artist Melissa Dettloff leads an inspiring workshop, where kids and parents alike are invited to create a personalized stuffed animal pet. Dig deep into your imagination to create a brand new creature of your own invention.

UPCOMING EXHIBITION

Art X Detroit 2015: Kresge Arts Experience

On View: April 8 - 26, 2014

Art X Detroit: Kresge Arts Experience is a five-day multidisciplinary celebration that will present works created by the 2013-2014 Kresge Eminent Artists and Artist Fellows, along with a special visual arts exhibition at MOCAD that runs through April 26, 2015. An exciting program of dance and musical performances, literary readings, workshops, panel discussions, public art and special exhibitions, Art X Detroit will be hosted at more than a dozen venues located throughout Midtown Detroit's Cultural Center and is free to the public. The Art X Detroit: Kresge Arts Experience is sponsored by The Kresge Foundation, in partnership with the College for Creative Studies, Artserve Michigan, Midtown Detroit, Inc. and MOCAD.

Learn more at artxdetroit.com

Museum Contact:

Elysia Borowy-Reeder

Executive Director

eborowy@mocadetroit.org

313.832.6622

Greg Baise

Curator of Public Programming

gbaise@mocadetroit.org

313.832.6622

Images and content requests:

Mike Kulick

Web + Digital Media Manager

mkulick@mocadetroit.org

The mission of the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit is to present art at the forefront of contemporary culture. As a non-collecting institution, MOCAD is responsive to the cultural content of our time, fueling crucial dialogue, collaboration, and public engagement.

Stay connected!



Facebook Twitter Instagram Tumblr YouTube Google Plus LinkedIn

MOCAD is generously supported by individual and corporate members, private and corporate foundations, and government agencies. MOCAD is located on Woodward and Garfield between the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and the Detroit Institute of the Arts, Wayne State University and the College for Creative Studies. The Museum 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. The 22,000 square foot building, a former auto dealership, has been simply renovated to maintain its historic character. With its raw, flexible and cavernous spaces, the building is well suited to the exhibition of contemporary art. Our ambitious series of public programs includes lectures, musical performances, films, literary readings and educational activities for children. The MOCAD Store includes merchandise not sold in the metropolitan area, including specialized art and culture magazines, journals and books, as well as limited edition artists t-shirts and other functional objects. Mobile Homestead is a permanent art work by late artist Mike Kelley located on the grounds of the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit. It's both a public sculpture and a private, personal architecture - based on the artist's childhood home on Palmer Road in Westland. MOCAD's Department of Education and Public Engagement programs the ground floor of Mobile Homestead as a community space, as Kelley intended. It is home to projects, events, gatherings, conversations and displays that are created by and for a diverse public, and is intentionally unaffiliated with the Museum's exhibitions and public programming. MOCAD has a parking lot and ample street parking. Information about MOCAD's exhibitions, programs, and special events is available on the MOCAD website at mocadetroit.org or by phone at 313 832 6622.

Copyright © 2015 Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, All rights reserved.
[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)