



**Press Release**  
Museum of Contemporary  
Art Detroit

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 3, 2015

**DETROIT CITY: MOCAD's Announces Fall 2015  
*Detroit Affinities* Artist - Jonathan Hernández**

United States Museum Exhibition Premiere of 12 year exhibition project *Vulnerabilia*

*Detroit Affinities: Jonathan Hernández*  
September 18, 2015 – January 3, 2016  
Curated by Jens Hoffmann, MOCAD Senior Curator at Large



Jonathan Hernández, *Vulnerabilia* (no cars go), collage on paper, 2015 (Detail). Courtesy the artist and kurimanzutto

DETROIT -- Begun over a decade ago, *Vulnerabilia* is built upon Jonathan Hernández's fascination with our media-saturated present. The title of the series evokes the idea of "vulnerability" while referencing the delicacy of the original materials that Hernández uses as well as the form and fragility of life. Cut directly from the daily news, the thin membrane of the paper and the sensitivity of the ink make these images contrarily permanent, frozen in time, and ephemeral. Beyond the paper itself, Hernández's choreographies of images also gesture toward our shared humanity. Obsessively cataloguing and arranging these images, Hernández creates a kind of visual encyclopedia of various moments—both catastrophic and rather ordinary—that define contemporary human life.

"For his first solo exhibition in a U.S. museum Hernández's has further developed his uncanny appropriation of mundane images that has characterized his work for many years. He is a master of transforming the everyday into unruly tapestries of uncertainty, ambiguity, and undomesticated chaos." Says Jens Hoffmann, senior curator at large for MOCAD.

The collages presented at MOCAD include both pre-existing works from the series as well as new compositions that Hernández has made for the exhibition related to the city of Detroit. Architectures abandoned and left; the faces of dozens of politicians peering furtively at their watches; car crashes and

small-scale catastrophes. Hernández's appropriation of these mundane images transforms them with great unease into a tapestry of uncertainty, ambiguity, and intrigue.



Jonathan Hernández, *Vulnerabilia* (covers), 2011. Courtesy the artist and kurimanzutto

## Exhibition Opening Celebration

Friday, September 18, 2015

Member Preview: 6 - 7pm

Curator Talk: 6:30 pm

Public Opening: 7 - 10pm

Music performance by Burnt Sugar Arkestra: 10PM

(Free for MOCAD members; \$10 for non-members after 9PM)

Artist talk with *Detroit Affinities* artist Jonathan Hernández on Saturday, September 19 at 11:30am

Founded by Village Voice icon Greg "Ionman" Tate and co-led with monster groove bassist Jared Michael Nickerson since 1999, New York City's Burnt Sugar the Arkestra Chamber is a territory band, a neo-tribal thang, a community hang, a society music guild aspiring to the condition of all that is molten, glacial, racial, spacial, oceanic, mythic, antiphonal, and telepathic. Rolling Stone calls them "a multiracial jam army that freestyles with cool telekinesis between the lustrous menace of Miles Davis' *On The Corner*, the slash-and-om of 1970s King Crimson, and Jimi Hendrix' moonwalk across side three of *Electric Ladyland*." For this appearance they are utilizing their warped soul harmonies, freedom-swing horn play, maggot-brained guitar implosions, and arkestral loopadelics in the dark in the service of the songbook of Sun Ra.

As part of:

# DETROIT CITY

DETROIT CITY is comprised of three concurrent series: *Detroit Affinities* (exhibition), *Detroit Speaks* (education), and *Detroit Stages* (performance). 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, Kayne Foundation (Ric & Suzanne Kayne and Jenni, Maggie & Saree), Quicken Loans, Andre Sakhai, Liz and Jonathan Goldman, Jane Suitor, Scholar Property LTD, Jasmin Tsou, the Krawiecki Gazes Family, Kimberly Brown, and William Leung.

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Information subject to change, please check [mocadetroit.org/upcomingexhibitions](http://mocadetroit.org/upcomingexhibitions) for the most up to

*date information.*

**Media and resources available upon request.**

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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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