

MOCAD

Press Release Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit

THE SPIRIT OF THE ANIMALS IS IN THE WHEELS

*Dave Eggers honors the courage and heart of 826michigan students
with sculptural metal animal exhibition at MOCAD*

Artist and author Dave Eggers—with fabrication support from Detroit artist Juan Martinez



Detroit, MI—A bison barrels down Mack Avenue, and a pangolin wobbles between Eastern Market and the Boggs School. Their unusual gait—paws attached to a bicycle's front wheel—and their enthusiastic passengers—school-aged Detroiters—are not the only reason these cycles-turned-wildlife are turning heads.

Artist and author **Dave Eggers**—with fabrication support from Detroit artist Juan Martinez and San Francisco art production shop Gizmo—has built a mini-herd of animal-inspired vehicles for an exhibition at the **Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD)** this fall. *The Spirit of the Animals is in the Wheels* promises a chance to see these magnificent, strange creature bikes and also demonstrates the importance of safe, reliable transportation between urban neighborhoods and schools.

Eggers is author of several books such as *The Circle* and *What is the What* and most recently, *Heroes of the Frontier*. He is also co-founder of the 826 National network, including 826michigan, which serves more than 3,700 school-aged students in Detroit, Ann Arbor, and Ypsilanti; their new location opens in Eastern Market in Fall 2016.

As an artist, his work has appeared at the Jules Maeght Gallery (San Francisco), the Nevada Museum of Art (Reno), and elsewhere. Earlier this year, MOCAD exhibited 75 of his prints and drawings of animals whose human-esque worries are rendered in hand-lettered text on the page.

"Every time I visit Detroit, something unusual or beautiful on the street catches my eye," says Eggers. "When these creatures are interacting in public, they'll be one small part of what makes Detroit a glorious place. When they're ferrying children between their schools and 826michigan, they'll be adding unexpected wonder and humor into what might otherwise be a mundane chore. If we find ways to let them, young people will approach everything with that kind of openness and courage."

Elysia Borowy-Reeder, Executive Director of MOCAD says, "MOCAD is an artist-activated, audience-engaged, community-based contemporary art museum. We generate art, ideas, and conversation around creative processes. We are a cultural leader of local necessity and national and international importance."

"Detroit children and families face enormous transportation challenges," says Amanda Uhle, executive director of 826michigan. "We know that we'll never have enough animal vehicles to fully solve the problem. We also know that a life-sized, street-worthy bison will help us demonstrate this authentic need and will do what 826michigan programs do best: expand opportunities for school-aged students to be fearless, to be joyful, to be themselves."

The aluminum bear, pangolin, and bison will be part of the MOCAD exhibition, which also includes video

by Oren Goldenberg. The creatures will be making various forays into the community, announced and otherwise, during the run of the exhibition and beyond.

About the Exhibition

The Spirit of the Animals is in the Wheels

by Dave Eggers

On view now through January 1, 2017

MOCAD, 4454 Woodward Ave, Detroit

For more information, please contact:
826michigan
(734) 761-3463 or visit: **826michigan.org**

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit
Elysia Borowy-Reeder
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ABOUT MOCAD

MOCAD is where adventurous minds encounter the best in contemporary visual, literary, music, and performing arts. A responsive center for diverse audiences, MOCAD presents art that contextualizes, interprets, educates and expands culture, pushing us to the edges of contemporary experience.

For more information, call **(313) 832-6622** or visit: **mocadetroit.org**

ABOUT SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a program to make it safe, convenient, and fun for children to bicycle and walk to school. When routes are safe, walking or biking to and from school is an easy way to get the regular physical activity children need for good health. Safe Routes to School initiatives also help ease traffic jams and air pollution, unite neighborhoods, and contribute to students' readiness to learn in school. The Michigan Fitness Foundation (MFF) administers the program in partnership with the Michigan Department of Transportation with funding provided by the Federal Highway Administration.

For more information, call **(800) 434-8642** or visit **www.saferoutesmichigan.org**

ABOUT 826MICHIGAN

826michigan inspires school-aged students to write confidently and skillfully with the help of adult volunteers in their communities. Our writing and tutoring programs uphold a culture of creativity and imagination and support students in establishing strong habits of mind. Through publication and community engagement, we provide students with an authentic and enthusiastic audience for their writing.

826michigan is one of seven unconventional, dynamic, and celebrated nonprofits in the 826 National network co-founded by Eggers. 826michigan annually serves more than 3,700 students across Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, and Detroit through work in schools, community centers, and its own quirky downtown Ann Arbor storefront—Liberty Street Robot Supply and Repair. In 2016, 826michigan will open its second location, the Detroit Robot Factory in Eastern Market. For more information on our free writing and tutoring programs for youth ages 6 to 18, please visit **www.826michigan.org** or call (734) 761-3463.

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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 moca-detroit.org.

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