



Press Release
Museum of Contemporary
Art Detroit

For Immediate Release:
February 14, 2018

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD) Presents

Tal R
: *this is not Detroit*

Opening Reception: Friday, May 11, 2018

Member Hour: 6–7pm

Public Opening: 7–10pm



Left to right: Tal R, *Boat*, 2017, oil on hardboard, artist made frame, 112 x 82 cm; Tal R, *ängel*, 2017, oil on hardboard, artist made frame, 112 x 82 cm. Image courtesy of the artist.

DETROIT, March 6, 2018 – **The Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD)** is pleased to announce **: *this is not Detroit***, a solo exhibition by the Copenhagen-based artist **Tal R**, opening **Friday, May 11, 2018**. The intricate, multipart installation manifests the artist’s fantasy of Detroit, acting as a meditation on dream places, identity, and whimsy. The exhibition will remain on view through Sunday, July 29,

2018.

Seven large-scale paintings, rendered in a rich and moody palate of blues, depict the artist's vision of specific Detroit neighborhoods. The abstract works use primitive shapes and symbols to investigate the visual language of displacement and place. Waves, ships, and city buildings, drawn with short energetic brushstrokes, populate these insular worlds. The formal, hard-edged palette suggests that this world is perhaps sturdier than the one we can see around us. These unique imaginings invite viewers to reflect on Detroit as a place, and as an idea — a parallel dream space.

For the exhibition, Tal R has written a one-of-a-kind, 52-page Detroit newspaper, which will be distributed to the public at the exhibition. : *this is not Detroit* is Tal R's sincere investigation of American iconography from his studio in Denmark, inspired by Kafka's *Amerika*, a novel he wrote without ever having visited America. All works in the show, including the paintings, will be completed in Detroit, at MOCAD, as part of the artist's immersion in the space. The newspaper will comprise a physical element in the show, displayed beside a papier-mâché wall in the gallery.

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

Saturday, May 12, 1PM

Tal R in Conversation with Terry R. Myers

Join art critic Terry R. Myers in conversation with Tal R about the artist's MOCAD exhibition, : *this is not Detroit*, and about his work in general.

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. *Mobile Homestead*, by late artist Mike Kelley, is a permanent artwork 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.

ABOUT TAL R

Tal R (Tal Shlomo Rosenzweig) was born in Tel Aviv, Israel and is currently based in Copenhagen, Denmark. From 2004 to 2014 he held the position of Professor at the prestigious Kunstakademie Düsseldorf. He has participated exhibition in numerous solo and group exhibitions internationally, including Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk, Denmark; Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, Holland; Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf, Germany; and Magasin III Museum & Foundation for Contemporary Art, Stockholm, Sweden, among many others.

Exhibition support for Tal R : this is not Detroit provided by Cheim & Read, Victoria Miro + Glenn Scott Wright, Gretchen + Ethan Davidson, and the Danish Arts Foundation.

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MOCAD Support

MOCAD exhibitions and public programs are supported by the A. Alfred Taubman Foundation.

MOCAD Operations are supported by Masco Corporation Foundation, Erb Family Foundation, The Kresge Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs, Quicken Loans, the J. Christopher and Anne Reyes Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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Curatorial support is provided by the Susanne Feld Hilberry Endowment for the Arts.

The Ford Curatorial Fellows at MOCAD are supported by the Ford Foundation.

MOCAD Capital support is provided by the Michigan Council for Art and Cultural Affairs and Audio Rescue Team.

Mike Kelley's *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 Mike Kelley's *Mobile Homestead* is provided by the Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts and the MOCAD Leadership Circle.

The J. Christopher and Anne Reyes Foundation has generously provided support for education and outreach.

The ESB/SKS Junior Docents and other educational programs are supported by the Edith S. Briskin/Shirley K. Schlafer

Foundation.

MOCAD Youth Programs are graciously funded by the the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Neiman Marcus, the Applebaum Family Compass Fund, MGM Resorts Foundation, the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, the Michigan Council for Art and Cultural Affairs, and MGM Grand Detroit.

MOCAD would like to thank our Leadership Circle (Jennifer and David Fischer, Elyse and David Foltyn, Linda Dresner and Ed Levy, Marsha and Jeffrey Miro, Roz and Scott Jacobson, Sonia and Keith Pomeroy, Sandy Seligman and Gil Glassberg, and, Julie Reyes Taubman and Robert Taubman) for making these programs possible: Mike Kelley's *Mobile Homestead*, Lectures, Poetry, Performance Art, Exhibitions, Film, DEPE Space, Music, Family Day, Public Programming, Education, Literature, and Museum Operations.



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