



Press Release
Museum of Contemporary
Art Detroit

For Immediate Release:
June 14, 2017

Unobstructed Views: A Collaborative Exhibition and Benefit Auction
Hosted by **Library Street Collective** and the **Museum of Contemporary
Art Detroit (MOCAD)** at the **Historic W. Hawkins Ferry House**



The Hawkins Ferry House. Photo by James Haefner. Courtesy Michigan Modern.

Detroit, MI – June 14, 2017 – In collaboration with the **Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD)**, **Library Street Collective** will present ***Unobstructed Views***, a group exhibition and benefit auction featuring **34** contemporary artists hosted at the Historic W. Hawkins Ferry House in Grosse Point Shores, Michigan. An artist reception and auction to benefit MOCAD will take place **July 27, 7- 10pm**. Additionally, bids may be placed online through Paddle8 **July 13-August 2**.

The Hawkins Ferry House, a modernist gem designed by William Kessler in 1962, was purchased in 2015 by Library Street Collective co-founders **JJ** and **Anthony Curis**. The Curises have completed an extensive renovation of the house aimed at restoring it to its original purpose: showcasing a vast art collection amidst stunning views of Lake St. Clair.

The artists participating in Unobstructed Views are: **Nina Chanel Abney, Derrick Adams, Brian Belott, Trudy Benson, Katherine Bernhardt, Sanford Biggers, Greg Bogin, Kendell Carter, Jack Craig, Greg Fadell, Beverly Fishman, James Benjamin Franklin, Sayre Gomez, Tyree Guyton, KAWS, Mike Kelley, Paul Kremer, Andrew Kuo, Sadie Laska, Austin Lee, Tony Matelli, Charles McGee, Josh Reames, Scott Reeder, Jason Revok, Carlos Rolon, Holton Rower, Adrienne Rubenstein, Chris Schanck, Willie Wayne Smith, Agathe Snow, Sheida Soleimani, Devin Troy Strother and Spencer Sweeney.**

The home's original owner and namesake, William Hawkins Ferry, was born in 1913 in Detroit. He attended the Cranbrook School for Boys and Harvard University, where he studied architecture with Walter Gropius and Marcel Breuer. During his lifetime, Ferry amassed an impressive collection of Surrealist and Abstract Expressionist art, including works by Alberto Giacometti, Robert Rauschenberg, Harry Bertoia, Pablo Picasso and Franz Klein.

"This generous endeavor helps ensure that the museum's strong programming in contemporary art will continue in the future," says **Elysia Borowy-Reeder, executive director of MOCAD**. "One of the three key areas in which the exhibition program is developed and focused on is contemporary art—and the visiting artists and related public programming, the proceeds allow the museum to introduce new approaches to the creative process, advancing technologies in art-making, and relevant issues and topics that reflect our time."

Notes to the Editor

Tickets are required for attendance and may be purchased from MOCAD [here](#).

Tickets are non-transferable and non-refundable. Events are rain or shine. Please consider your ticket purchase a contribution to MOCAD, a 501(c)(3) non profit organization. A portion of your ticket purchase is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by the law.

For illustrative purposes, a high-resolution version of the above photograph can be found by contacting Amani Olu at amani@olucompany.com

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. More information can be found at mocadetroit.org.

About JJ Curis

JJ Curis is the Gallery Director of Library Street Collective, which she co-founded with her husband Anthony. Originally from Indianapolis, she earned a degree in business, accounting and finance from Indiana University. She became a CPA and worked as a tax consultant in her home state and Los Angeles before relocating to

Detroit in 2009. She serves as Art Director for Bedrock Real Estate Services, a role in which she helps select works for all of their properties and executes large public art projects.

About Anthony Curis

Anthony Curis is co-founder and partner in Library Street Collective. The gallery is one facet of Curis' endeavors to revitalize the Library Street-Broadway area. In partnership with Bedrock, Curis has transformed the Belt, formerly a disused alley, into a dynamic public space offering visitors entertainment, public arts programming and dining (including the James Beard award-nominated Standby and the Skip, also owned by Curis). He is Vice President of Curis Enterprises and resides in Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan, where he is working to restore the historic W. Hawkins Ferry that he shares with his wife JJ and their four-year-old son Connor.

About Library Street Collective

Library Street Collective specializes in cutting edge contemporary fine art with a focus on emerging and established artists who have pushed the boundaries of traditional medium and exhibition space. Located in the heart of downtown Detroit, we present regular group and solo exhibitions while contributing to the artistic renaissance of the city's public, private, and heritage spaces

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Curatorial support is provided by Noreen Khalid Ahmad.

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