



Museum of Contemporary
Art Detroit

For Immediate Release
July 11, 2018

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD) Presents
Mike Kelley's *Mobile Homestead* Tour 2018
Featuring μ Topian Dinner performances by
The Hinterlands



Detroit, MI – The *Mobile Homestead*, a unique public art project by internationally renowned artist Mike Kelley, will venture from its permanent home on the grounds of the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit to bring a series of participatory and performative dinners to communities throughout the Detroit metro area this summer.

Incorporating explosive physical performance, live music, choreography, handheld video projection, conversation, smartphones, and really good food eaten in surprising ways, the dinners will guide participants through an investigation of national and personal cultural identity and the notion of “breaking bread” with those across a variety of divides.

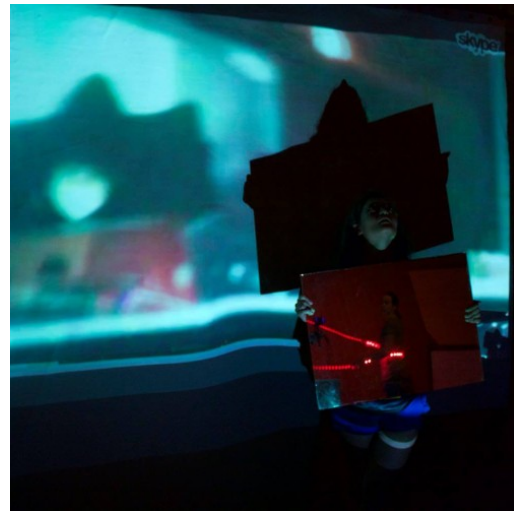


Created as works of participatory art, the dinners will be performed by The Hinterlands who will employ various forms of technology to incorporate international artistic collaborators from across so-called enemy lines. Entitled *μTopian Dinner* the performances are designed to shift our way of thinking around the typical American meal — what we eat, how we eat it, who we eat it with — in order to create new relationships, conversations, and experiences for participants.

The performances of *μTopian Dinner* are designed to be of interest to people of all ages and backgrounds and are offered free of charge on a first come, first served basis. Participants are welcome to stay for one course or the entire meal. Everyone is welcome.

On Saturday, August 4, the *Mobile Homestead* will present a series of participatory activities and two performances of *μTopian Dinner* at the Sidewalk Festival for the Arts located on Lahser Road between Grand River and Orchard Street in Detroit.

Additional performances of *μTopian Dinner* will be presented on Saturday, August 11 and Sunday, August 12 at the Dixieland Flea Market, 2045 Dixie Highway, Waterford Twp.



ABOUT μ TOPIAN DINNERS

Created by The Hinterlands with Poetic Societies and Renee Willoughby. Featuring: Aja Salakastar Dier, Levon Kafafian, Alireza Keymanesh (Tehran), Pavel Mitenko (Moscow), Amir Pousti (Tehran), TGIS (Beijing), and Julia Yezbick

Using an explosive physical training practice and a lengthy research process, The Hinterlands (Richard Newman and Liza Bielby) engage an interdisciplinary pool of collaborators to create genre-defying works that explore the possibilities of theatre and push audiences into unknown spaces. Their work ranges from psychedelic Westerns to imagined radical archives to border-crossing street festivals, and has been seen at the Shanghai Biennale (Shanghai, China), The Flynn Center (Burlington), Alverno Presents (Milwaukee), MOCAD (Detroit), Legion Arts (Cedar Rapids), Charlestown Working Theatre (Boston), Goodyear Arts (Charlotte), the Berlinale (Berlin, Germany), the Stamps Gallery (Ann Arbor), Teatri Dodona (Pristina, Kosovo), P! (NYC), and White Night (Chengdu, China). In addition to their own performance work, The Hinterlands are artists-in-residents and program curators of Play House, a Detroit neighborhood-based performance space that they manage in

collaboration with Power House Productions, and also curated and organized The Porous Borders Festival, a two-day festival exploring the municipal and cultural borders along the Hamtramck/Detroit divide.

Visit: <http://thehinterlandsensemble.org/>

A leading figure in the field of telepresence cross-cultural programming, Ava Ansari works as a social art practitioner, performer, activist, educator, curator, community organizer, and cultural producer. Ava traces poetic life qualities and feels accomplished when discovers new points of alignment between body, internal spaces, extended selves, and the internet. During the past eight years, she has been focused on the curation and management of social dynamics, public arts, and participatory projects with attention to "neglected spaces", "marginalized global communities", and "the Middle East and the United States relations". As the founding director of Poetic Societies—a multimedia and multipresence performance lab focused on creating, learning, and celebrating cross-cultural memories—Ava collaborates to produce artistic projects that use digital technologies as material for creating engaging real-time telematic experiences.

<https://poeticsocieties.cargocollective.com/>

Renee Willoughby is a multimedia performance artist and designer working within themes of assemblage, heterotopia, telematics, and ghosts. A resident of Hamtramck, Michigan, Renee creates across disciplines and distances, from participatory Internet-based performance projects exploring mummification to co-facilitating bi-national improvisation sessions with performers in Tehran and Detroit. Renee has recently collaborated with artists across Europe and the US, including The Hinterlands, A Host of People, Shaun Caton, PARS and Interstate Arts. She has a Master of Arts from the experimental Digital Performance program at Wimbledon College of Art (London). <http://www.reneekindling.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. 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.

MOCAD is generously supported by individual members, private and corporate foundations, and government agencies. More information can be found at

mocadetroit.org.

ABOUT MOBILE HOMESTEAD

Mobile Homestead is a site-specific public art project by the late artist Mike Kelley permanently located on the grounds of the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit. A full-scale replica of the 1950's ranch-style home in suburban Westland where Mike Kelley was raised, *Mobile Homestead* was created to serve as a community gallery and gathering space programmed by and for a diverse public. The white clapboard facade is removable and designed to travel into communities throughout Detroit offering various kinds of socially beneficial, free public services.

Mike Kelley's *Mobile Homestead* is commissioned by Artangel in association with MOCAD, LUMA Foundation and the 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.

ABOUT HINTERLANDS

The Hinterlands is a Detroit-based company creating performances and public events that are highly irrational and deeply American. From our original touring pieces to the events we curate in our Detroit neighborhood, our work is built around pressing into the unknown areas of our personal and collective history with fearless physicality and a sense of humor. Our performances smash seemingly disparate images and ideas together, culminating in new, highly layered meanings that are greater than the sum of their parts. We create a space for our audience to be in this unknown hinterland with us through techniques that disarm and disorient, short-circuiting expectations and luring them into unexpected interactions. We have an ongoing physical training practice that is both a foundation of our collaborative devising process, and a means of conducting exchanges across disciplines and contexts. Formed in 2009 by Richard Newman and Liza Bielby, our work has been seen at the Shanghai Biennale, the Berlinale, Alverno Presents, Flynn Center, The Detroit Institute of Arts, Charlestown Working Theater, and the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit among others. The Hinterlands most recent piece, *The Radicalization Process*, was described in *Hyperallergic* by critic Rosie Sharpe as "... an absolutely original and radical performance – one that questions the structure and limits of theater as much as it brings to light the politics that have shaped and damaged modern-day society." In addition to their own performance work, The Hinterlands are artists-in-residents and program curators of Play House, a Detroit neighborhood-based performance space that they manage in collaboration with Power House Productions, and also curated and organized The Porous Borders Festival, a two-day festival exploring the municipal and cultural borders along the Hamtramck/Detroit divide.

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MOCAD SUPPORT

The Mike Kelley *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 the Mike Kelley Mobile Homestead is provided by the Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts.

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

MOCAD operations are supported by Erb Family Foundation, The Kresge Foundation, MASCO Corporation Foundation, the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the J. Christopher and Anne Reyes Foundation.

MOCAD's 2016-2021 Strategic Planning Initiative is funded in part by a generous grant from the Kresge Foundation.

Martin Creed's façade project, *Work No. 203: EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE ALRIGHT* (2007), is sponsored by generous support from the Alfred A. Taubman Foundation, Gavin Brown's Enterprise, Spectrum Neon, and the Applebaum Family Compass Fund.

Exhibition support for Tyree Guyton *2+2=8* and *Process* is provided by Marti Meyerson + Jamie Hooper, and Jennifer + Dan Gilbert.

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

The Intersection, an ongoing program developed by the Ford Curatorial Fellows, is supported by the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan and the Michigan State University Hub for Innovation in Learning and Technology.

DEPE Space is supported by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

MOCAD capital support is provided by the Richard and Jane Manoogian Foundation, and Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs.

MOCAD's connectivity initiative is supported by the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Legacy Funds at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

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 Applebaum Family Compass Fund, the Vera and Joseph Dresner Foundation, the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA), MGM Resorts Foundation, and Heart of Neiman Marcus.

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, Anne and J. Christopher Reyes, 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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