For Immediate Release
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Image: Musa N Nxumalo, Untitled (12)-In Glorious Series, 2019, Courtesy of the Artist.

CROSSING NIGHT:
REGIONAL IDENTITIES x GLOBAL CONTEXT

OCTOBER 25, 2019 – FEBRUARY 2, 2020

Opening Reception:
Friday, October 25th 7-11PM
Member Preview: 6-7pm

Detroit, MI – Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD) announces Crossing Night: Regional Identities x Global Context, a group exhibition presented in collaboration with the A4 Arts Foundation based in Cape Town, South Africa. As a means of expanding the scope and breadth of the exhibition a selection of works from the Toronto-based The Wedge Collection will be included in the show.

Crossing Night is an exhibition series organized by the A4 Arts Foundation that explores the work of contemporary artists from the Southern African region. Presented and organized by MOCAD and A4, Crossing Night: Regional Identities x
The first iteration of Crossing Night, curated by Francisco Berzunza in Oaxaca, Mexico—investigated societal relationships between death practices in Southern Africa and Mexico to unearth historical preoccupations in the two postcolonial regions. Crossing Night: Regional Identities x Global Context presents work that addresses the concerns, thoughts, and desires of contemporary artists from the Southern African region as they grapple with the legacy of post-colonial structures. With an emphasis on transition and transformation this exhibition explores how local politics, urban landscape, and place shape the personal identities that define regional culture. In addition, the exhibition queries the efficacy of regionality itself in the context of the hyper-networked digital contemporary. Crossing Night: Regional Identities x Global Context will feature photography, video, sculpture and installation works.

MOCAD and A4 Art Foundation are proud to partner with The Wedge Collection as a contributor to Crossing Night: Regional Identities X Global Context. Based in Toronto, The Wedge collection is one of Canada's largest, privately owned contemporary art collections focusing on exploring African diasporic culture and contemporary Black life.

Crossing Night: Regional Identities x Global Context will include a range of works that push the form of lens-based practice that include but are not limited to the artists Jody Brand, Calvin Dondo, Lebohang Kganye, Athi-Patra Ruga, Mikhael Subotzky, Guy Tillim, Andrew Tshabangu, Kyle Weeks, Moshekwa Langa, Margaret Courtney-Clarke, Sabelo Mlangeni, Santu Mofokeng, Zanele Muholi, Samson Kambalu, Robin Rhode, William Kentridge, Penny Siopis. Additionally, MOCAD is proud to announce that artists Binelde Hyrcan and Nicholas Hlobo will travel to Detroit to create site specific sculptural installations for the exhibition. We look forward to these two artists traveling to the United States to represent the interests and considerations of artists working in the Southern African region.

As a means to engage the local community with opportunities to interpret the exhibition Crossing Night: Regional Identities x Global Context will present States of Flux—a public program series in which Detroit based artists, thinkers and organizers will respond to themes within the exhibition. States of Flux will include talks, performances and workshops that will serve as a platform for robust understanding and intercultural dialogue between Southeastern Michigan and Southern African regions.

Crossing Night: Regional Identities x Global Context has been made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. “We remain deeply grateful to the National Endowment for the Arts for generously supporting our ongoing efforts as a national leader in interdisciplinary practice with a major grant to support this groundbreaking exhibition,” says Elysia Borowy-Reeder, Executive Director of MOCAD. As an international presenting institution MOCAD is proud to be on the front-line of bringing global conversations to Detroit.
STATES OF FLUX
PROGRAMMING

TALK
Curator Talk with Teens
Saturday, October 26, 2019 at 11am

Teen only talk with curators of Crossing Night: Regional Identities x Global Context. Please reach-out to MOCAD’s Youth Program Producer, Erin Martinez, for more information at emartinez@mocadetroit.org.

TALK
States of Flux: Regional Identities x Global Context
Saturday, October 26, 2019 at 1pm

Join us for an afternoon of conversation with the curators of Crossing Night: Regional Identities x Global Context Larry Ossei-Mensah, Susanne Feld Hilberry Senior Curator, Josh Ginsburg, Director at the A4 Arts Foundation and Jova Lynne, Ford Curatorial Fellow at MOCAD as they discuss the exhibition and its themes. The curators will be joined by participating artists Binelde Hyrcan and Nicholas Hlobo.

TOUR
Curators Tour with MOCAD Members
Saturday, October 26, 2019 at 3pm

MOCAD Members are invited to attend a tour of Crossing Night: Regional Identities x Global Context led by MOCAD curators. Following the tour enjoy drinks in Café 78. Registration is essential – please email Wayne Northcross at wnorthcross@mocadetroit.org to RSVP.

Not yet a member? Visit mocadetroit.org/support for details or to join, renew, or upgrade. Enroll in our easy auto-renewal program and save 10% on the cost of your membership.
States of Flux: African Diaspora–Detroit to the Continent  
Thursday, November 14, 2019 7pm

Come to MOCAD for an evening of conversation about the connections between the Southern African Region and Detroit, specifically highlighting the cultural identity of the Detroit Afrikan. This conversation will include, thoughts and perspectives from creative leaders in the Detroit Afrikan movement, Bryce Detroit, Olayami Dabls, and Marsha Music. Together they will speak about the cultural, artistic, and historical connections between the Southern African region and Detroit. This conversation will be moderated by co-curator of Crossing Night: Regional Identities x Global Context, Ford Curatorial Fellow Jova Lynne.

TALK  
States of Flux: Black Art as Cultural Archive  
Thursday, November 21, 2019 7pm

How does art across the African diaspora activate a cultural archive for our time? This panel discussion will explore the notion of Black art as cultural archive through the lens of curators, collectors and art historians. Participating panelists include Larry Ossei-Mensah, Susanne Feld Hilberry Senior Curator, Dr. Kenneth Montague, founder of The Wedge Collection, Critical theorist Michael Stone-Richards, and Art Historian Samantha Noel.

PERFORMANCE  
States of Flux: ZIM to DET  
Thursday, December 5, 2019, 7pm

This evening will highlight projects instigated through the Zimbabwe Cultural Center of Detroit (ZCCD), whose goal is to encourage interaction and collaboration between artists, writers, filmmakers, and musicians in both Zimbabwe and Detroit. Featuring music and other forms of creative expression, this program will center various exchanges between Detroit and Zimbabwe – a country in the Southern African region. This event is presented in partnership with the exhibition Crossing Night: Regional Identities x Global Context.
Images, clockwise from top left:
Lebohang Kganye, Re shapa setepe sa lenyalo II, 2013, Copyright Lebohang Kganye, Courtesy of AFRONOVA GALLERY.
Moshekwa Langa, Mettingen, Installation View at Draiflessen Collection, 2018, Photo by Anneke Dunkhase, courtesy of Stevenson gallery.

MORE ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Crossing Night: Regional Identities x Global Context is organized by the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit in collaboration with the A4 Arts Foundation, Cape Town and is curated by Larry Ossei-Mensah, Susanne Feld Hilberry Senior Curator, Josh Ginsburg, Director at the A4 Arts Foundation and Jova Lynne, Ford Curatorial Fellow at MOCAD.

Funding for Crossing Night: Regional Identities x Global Context is provided in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Additional support for the exhibition was provided by Glenn Charles, Eric T. McKissack, André Des Rochers, and Josef Vascovitz & Lisa Goodman. Support for States of Flux programming is sponsored in-part by Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design. Ford Curatorial fellows are supported by the Ford Foundation. Exhibitions and public programs at MOCAD are supported by the A. Alfred Taubman Foundation.

ABOUT A4 Arts Foundation
A4 ARTS Foundation is a non-profit organisation, opened to the public in September 2017, which is dedicated to supporting the creative arts in southern Africa. A4 ARTS is orientated towards art practitioners and seeks to accommodate and share creative processes between artists with the aim of connecting people, ideas, and practices at both the local and international level. Based in the District Six region of Cape Town, the premises encompasses a gallery / project space, a multimedia library, and an archive as well as private studio and workshop spaces. The building is designed to encourage and facilitate engagement within the arts, to support open education, experimentation, collaboration, and conversation.
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 WEDGE COLLECTION
The Wedge Collection was established in 1997 in Toronto by Dr. Kenneth Montague. It is one of Canada's largest, privately owned contemporary art collections focusing on exploring African diasporic culture and contemporary Black life. The title of the Collection refers to The Wedge Gallery - an exhibition space that was literally wedged inside the narrow hallways of Montague’s home. The title refers not only to the gallery shape within his loft residence, but also to the landscape of contemporary art where he hoped to 'wedge' black artists into the mainstream. Today, The Wedge Collection, comprises over 300 original works by artists from Canada, the United States and throughout the African Diaspora. It also houses an extensive catalogue of resource materials, including books, art journals, newspapers, magazines, and exhibition and artist documentation and lends its works to international traveling exhibitions.

MOCAD HOURS
Wednesday, Saturday, + Sunday: 11am-5pm
Thursday + Friday: 11am-8pm
Closed Monday + Tuesday

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

MOCAD Operations are generously supported by Masco Corporation, Erb Family Foundation, The Kresge Foundation, Hudson-Webber Foundation, Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs, J. Christopher and Anne Reyes Foundation, and National Endowment for the Arts.

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation supports MOCAD in experimenting with technology and new media to engage regional and international audiences both inside and outside the museum’s walls. Supported programs include Daily Rush, an online exhibition program for experimental media and moving image; Radix: Experience in the Age of Digital Everywhere, MOCAD’s long-term new media and technology initiative; and a series of future-focused, technology-based enhancements to the MOCAD campus.

MOCAD’s Curator of New Media + Technology is supported by the John S. and James L. Knight 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.

Support for the Susanne Feld Hilberry Senior Curator is provided by the Susanne Feld Hilberry Endowment for the Arts and the Ford Foundation.

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

MOCAD capital support is provided by the Richard and Jane Manoogian Foundation, and the 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 ESB/SKS Junior Docents and other educational programs are supported by the Edith S. Briskin/Shirley K. Schlafer Foundation.

MOCAD Youth Programs are supported by the Applebaum Family Compass Fund, the Mandell and Madeleine Berman Foundation, the Vera and Joseph Dresner Foundation, the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, the Edith S. Briskin/Shirley K. Schlafer Foundation, Plum Market, and Heart of Neiman Marcus.

The A. Alfred Taubman Foundation is the presenting sponsor for Robolights Detroit.

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.

Richard Prince: Portraits is generously supported by the A. Alfred Taubman Foundation.

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MOCAD would like to thank our Leadership Circle (Linda Dresner and Ed Levy, Roz and Scott Jacobson, Sonia and Keith Pomeroy, Jane and Ed Schulak, Sandy Seligman, 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.

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.

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