

MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART DETROIT ANNOUNCES RESCHEDULED OPENING OF NEW RED ORDER'S "CRIMES AGAINST REALITY" AND COMMITS TO WORKING TO DISMANTLE THE ONGOING EFFECTS OF SETTLER COLONIALISM

Postponed exhibition moves forward after MOCAD Board agrees to take action to dismantle the ongoing effects of settler colonialism and to serve Detroit's Indigenous communities, as well as implement substantial changes in museum staffing, board and labor practices brought forward by former MOCAD employees and current staff.

October 1, 2020 – Detroit, MI – The Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit is pleased to announce the opening of *Crimes Against Reality*, the first solo museum exhibition by **New Red Order**, on **October 1, 2020**. The exhibition, which will span two of the museum's galleries, includes new video commissions that explore experimental media and emerging technologies through an Indigenous lens by way of interdisciplinary artistic collaboration. *Crimes Against Reality* is the latest installment in MOCAD's *Unboxing* series, an ongoing slate of exhibitions, performances, and public programs dedicated to emerging ideas at the crossroads of technology and contemporary art.

As the Board works to instantiate and cultivate meaningful institutional support for Indigenous people, the museum is thrilled to present *Crimes Against Reality*, which offers a forum for the public to engage with New Red Order's urgent and activating work. The exhibition was originally slated to open on July 2, 2020 and was postponed until MOCAD agreed to:

- Substantial changes in museum staffing, board and labor practices brought forward by former MOCAD employees and current staff.
- Support the establishment of and working with an Indigenous community council, to develop an ongoing Land Acknowledgment practice that includes a commitment to working to dismantle the ongoing effects of settler colonialism, and to serve Detroit's Indigenous communities, which will be accompanied by a list of concrete actions MOCAD will take that demonstrate this commitment.

The work of NRO and this exhibition has been instrumental in setting forth institutional change. MOCAD is grateful for NRO's creativity, engagement and leadership in facilitating social change through artistic practice. As the museum's administrative changes have highlighted areas of growth and set the groundwork for future transformation, the Board has undertaken a meaningful commitment to reshaping MOCAD in line with the needs expressed by the communities it aims to serve. In addition to addressing New Red Order's desire to see that the museum adopt a land acknowledgement practice, MOCAD has recommitted to supporting art-workers and artists and taken steps to increase diversity, equity and inclusion. MOCAD has also agreed to implement the substantial changes in museum staffing, board and labor practices brought forward by former MOCAD employees and current staff. MOCAD is proud to have made the following institutional

changes:

- Working with employees to create a system of accountability between the board and staff.
- Working to increase BIPOC participation on board committees and the board itself so that 1/3 of the board will reflect economically and racially diverse communities.
- MOCAD has re-hired former staff members who left, foregrounding their voices in reshaping the institution.
- Working with Teen Council to create more opportunities for meaningful engagement.
- Creating ways by which the employee voice and community voice can be heard and establishing a confidential email box for complaints.
- Created an improved parental leave arrangement for all staff, in accordance with employees' desires.

We aim for a Land Acknowledgement practice and an accompanying list of committed actions to be announced and implemented at the opening of the museum's Winter season. The museum has also earmarked a designated budget to support future programming aiming to amplify the voices of Indigenous Peoples.

In light of these changes, MOCAD is pleased to announce the much-awaited opening of New Red Order's *Crimes Against Reality*. *Crimes Against Reality* is organized by the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit and curated by Pat Elifritz, Curator of New Media and Technology, with curatorial support from Tizziana Baldenebro, former MOCAD Curatorial Fellow.

ABOUT NEW RED ORDER

New Red Order is a public secret society dedicated to examining desires for indigeneity, facilitated by core contributors Adam Khalil (Ojibway, from Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan), Zack Khalil (Ojibway, from Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan), and Jackson Polys (Tlingit, from Ketchikan, Alaska). Now based in New York and working collaboratively across film, performance, and installation, New Red Order's work draws on exchanges with a diverse slate of "accomplices" and "informants," sharing perspectives to catalyze action and the expansion of Indigenous agency. New Red Order emerges out of contradistinction from The Improved Order of Red Men, a secret society that 'plays Indian.' They have presented their work at the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Toronto Biennial of Art, and Artists Space New York, expanding the public secret society network across numerous institutional platforms.

ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART DETROIT

The Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD) is a hub for the exploration of emerging ideas in contemporary art, striving to present vanguard ideas that reimagine the cultural content of our time, fueling critical dialogue and public collaboration. MOCAD began in 1995 when Detroit Free Press art critic Marsha Miro, the late Susanne Feld Hilberry, renowned owner of the former Susanne Hilberry Gallery, and the late photographer and author Julie Taubman envisioned a new museum that would expand Detroit's contemporary art community. The founders conceived of

MOCAD as a non-collecting institution that organizes and hosts temporary exhibitions of new and experimental artists. The museum resides in an Albert Kahn-designed building occupying a former auto dealership, an innovative addition to Detroit's vibrant Midtown neighborhood. Through its unique physical space and programming alike, MOCAD strives to center collective exploration and community engagement. MOCAD also acknowledges that this physical space is located on occupied land, known as Waawiyatanong, and resolves to engage with the history of settler colonialism by supporting Detroit's Indigenous communities moving forward.