



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, March 4, 2015

THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART, LOS ANGELES (MOCA) PRESENTS

KAHLIL JOSEPH: DOUBLE CONSCIENCE

March 20–August 16, 2015
MOCA Grand Avenue



LOS ANGELES—The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles presents *Kahlil Joseph: Double Conscience*, a double screen video installation of Joseph's *m.A.A.d* (2014), a work that delivers a lush and richly layered portrait of contemporary Los Angeles. Joseph is an artist and filmmaker for whom the lyrical qualities of contemporary music are often a point of departure and an inspiration for associative, non-linear storytelling. This is his first major museum show.

m.A.A.d was commissioned by the Compton-born rapper Kendrick Lamar and premiered as a single-channel version at the Sundance Institute's Next Fest in 2014. Dream-like and kaleidoscopic, *m.A.A.d* weaves together film and video documentation of the rapper's hometown; directed vignettes of poetic cinema; home video of Lamar and his friends and family filmed in 1992; and news footage from the Los Angeles riots. The work is scored by Flying Lotus, the musical alias of Steven Ellison, and samples the verbally dense, booming hip-hop of Lamar's breakthrough album *good kid, m.A.A.d city* (2012).

The camera sinuously glides through predominantly African American neighborhoods, pausing to capture quotidian moments—driving in a car, a marching band, the barbershop—that are suffused with creativity, joy,

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and sadness. The split screen divides the viewer's attention and alludes to the history of auteur cinema, a form of filmmaking pioneered by French director Jean-Luc Godard that sacrificed linear narrative for experimentation with the medium's formal and political possibilities. *m.A.A.d* extends this tradition by crossing the wires of music video, amateur film footage, and moments of magical realism. The two-part projection may also slyly evoke philosopher W.E.B. Du Bois's early twentieth century concept of "double consciousness," a psychological description of black life in America.

In light of the national news stories involving the deaths of innocent young black men at the hands of white police officers and the disturbing lack of consequences and prosecutions related to those deaths, as well as the many subsequent protests organized by concerned citizens, *Kahlil Joseph: Double Conscience* lends voice and visibility to marginalized issues and communities. Placed alongside *Sturtevant: Double Trouble* and an installation of significant works from the permanent collection, this presentation of work by an emerging Los Angeles-based artist affirms MOCA's mission to exhibit works of art that deal with the most pressing issues of our time.

ARTIST BIO:

Kahlil Joseph (b. 1981) lives and works in Los Angeles. Joseph's short film *Until The Quiet Comes* (2011) was included in the celebrated exhibition *Ruffneck Constructivists*, curated by Kara Walker, at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, last year. The film was also awarded the Grand Jury Prize for Short Films at the Sundance Film Festival in 2012. *m.A.A.d* was originally included in the group exhibition *The Oracle*, curated by Noah Davis, at the Underground Museum, Los Angeles, in 2014.

Kahlil Joseph: Double Conscience is organized by The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles.

m.A.A.d. was first exhibited at the Underground Museum.

In kind support provided by Commonwealth Projects.

Image credit: Kahlil Joseph, stills from the film *m.A.A.d.*, 2014, photography by Chayse Irvin, courtesy of the artist

RELATED PROGRAMS

ART TALK: DUANE DETERVILLE

Thursday, June 18, 7pm

MOCA Grand Avenue, Ahmanson Auditorium

Duane Deterville is an artist, writer, and scholar specializing in African and Afri-diasporic visual culture. His two-part essay on Kahlil Joseph's film *Until the Quiet Comes* was published in the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art's *Open Space* publication in 2013.

FREE; RSVP at moca.org

Please check moca.org for updates on related programs.

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ALSO OPENING AT MOCA

William Pope.L: Trinket

March 20–June 28, 2015

The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA

William Pope.L: Trinket is an exhibition of new and recent work by the Chicago-based artist, an essential figure in the development of performance and installation art since the 1970s. The exhibition will be installed in the soaring spaces of The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA and comprises large-scale installations, videos, paintings, photography, and performance works, including a new performance and sculpture work made especially for the exhibition. The centerpiece of the show is *Trinket*, a monumental installation of a 45 x 16 foot custom-made American flag. During the museum's public hours the flag is blown continuously by four large-scale industrial fans—the type used on Hollywood film sets to create wind and rain effects—and illuminated from below by a bank of custom theatrical lights. Over time the flag will appear to fray at its ends due to the constant whipping of the forced air, a potent metaphor for the rigors and complexities of democratic engagement and participation. This is the largest museum presentation of Pope.L's work to date. Organized by MOCA Senior Curator Bennett Simpson.

Sturtevant: Double Trouble

March 20–July 27, 2015

MOCA Grand Avenue

Sturtevant: Double Trouble is the first comprehensive survey in America of Sturtevant's (American, b. 1924, d. 2014) 50-year career and the only institutional presentation of her work organized in the United States since 1973. Sturtevant started making her own versions of the works of her contemporaries in 1964, using some of the most iconic artworks of her generation as a source and catalyst for the exploration of originality, authorship, and the interior structures of art and image culture. Beginning with her versions of works by Jasper Johns and Andy Warhol, Sturtevant initially turned the visual logic of Pop art back on itself, probing uncomfortably at the workings of art history in real time. Her chameleon-like embrace of other artists' art has also resulted in her being largely overlooked in the history of postwar American art. As a woman "repeating" the work of better-known male artists, she has passed almost unnoticed through the hierarchies of mid-century modernism and postmodernism. *Sturtevant: Double Trouble* is organized by The Museum of Modern Art, New York.

THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART, LOS ANGELES (MOCA)

About MOCA: Founded in 1979, MOCA's vision is to be the defining museum of contemporary art. In a relatively short period of time, MOCA has achieved astonishing growth with three Los Angeles locations of architectural renown; a world-class permanent collection of more than 6,800 objects international in scope and among the finest in the world; hallmark education programs that are widely emulated; award-winning publications that present original scholarship; groundbreaking monographic, touring, and thematic exhibitions of international repute that survey the art of our time; and cutting-edge engagement with modes of new media production. MOCA is a not-for-profit institution that relies on a variety of funding sources for its activities.

Hours: MOCA Grand Avenue (located at 250 South Grand Avenue in downtown Los Angeles) is open Monday and Friday from 11am to 5pm; Thursday from 11am to 8pm; Saturday and Sunday from 11am to 6pm; and closed on Tuesday and Wednesday. The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA (located at 152 North Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012) has the same hours as MOCA Grand Avenue during exhibitions. Please call ahead or go to moca.org for the Geffen Contemporary at MOCA exhibition schedule. MOCA



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Pacific Design Center, located at 8687 Melrose Avenue; West Hollywood, CA 90069, is open Tuesday through Friday from 11am to 5pm; Saturday and Sunday from 11am to 6pm; and closed on Monday. The MOCA Store at 250 South Grand Avenue is open Monday through Wednesday and Friday from 10:30am to 5:30pm; Thursday from 10:30am to 8:30pm; and Saturday and Sunday from 10:30am to 6:30pm.

Museum Admission: General admission is free for all MOCA members. General admission is also free for everyone at MOCA Grand Avenue and The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA on Thursdays from 5pm to 8pm, courtesy of Wells Fargo. General admission is always free at MOCA Pacific Design Center. General admission at MOCA Grand Avenue and the Geffen Contemporary at MOCA is \$12 for adults; \$7 for students with I.D. and seniors (65+); and free for children under 12.

More Information: For 24-hour information on current exhibitions, education programs, and special events, call 213 626 6222 or access MOCA online at moca.org.

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