



THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART, LOS ANGELES (MOCA), PRESENTS
*RICK OWENS: FURNITURE***

**December 17, 2016–April 2, 2017
MOCA Pacific Design Center**



LOS ANGELES — The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (MOCA), presents *Rick Owens: Furniture*, an exhibition of work by renowned Paris-based fashion and furniture designer Rick Owens. The exhibition includes recent furniture, a new group of large-scale sculptures and installations, and a video by Owens, alongside a selection of works by the late artist and musician Steven Parrino. Best known for the iconic, eponymous clothing label he started in Los Angeles in 1994, Owens has consistently drawn inspiration for his fashion collections and sculptural furniture from a vast array of art historical sources that span modernist design, brutalist architecture, monochrome painting, minimal art, and avant-garde dance. His radical and spectacular runway shows function as a form of performance art and often call into question preconceived and culturally constructed notions of beauty promoted by the very fashion industry in which he works. Since 2007 Owens has applied a punk and anarchist sensibility to furniture design as well, creating brutal and elegant forms out of marble, alabaster, bronze, ox bone, leather, and plywood. In addition to showcasing works in Owens's signature materials, this exhibition marks the artist's foray into foam, rock crystal, and concrete. This exhibition was organized in close collaboration with Michèle Lamy, Owens's longtime partner and the primary creative force and producer of Owens's furniture line.

Rick Owens: Furniture extends Owens's interest in placing his works in dialogue with those of fellow artists, following on a 2015 presentation of Owens's furniture alongside work by the late Italian artist Carol Rama at the Musée d'art Moderne de la Ville de Paris. Inspired by the productive juxtapositions that emerged in Paris, this exhibition will show Owens's work with a selection of paintings by Parrino, whose work has been influential to Owens, and provides the opportunity to tease out formal and conceptual parallels in the two artists' works. For example, processes of detaching, deforming, twisting, and distorting are central in both Parrino's "misshaped canvases" and Owens's iconic, minimalist clothing. So too does each artist find inspiration in both "high" and "low" forms of American culture, invoking the monochromatic canvases of Robert Rauschenberg, Ad Reinhardt, and Frank Stella, and the rise of bike culture and Harley-Davidson, film noir, and cult horror movies in equal measure. Extending from a subversive, anarchist sensibility, Owens and Parrino place the mediums in which they work—and their respective histories—under examination.

Rick Owens (b. 1961, Porterville, California) is an internationally renowned fashion and furniture designer. Owens studied art at Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles and fashion at The Fashion Center at Los Angeles Trade-Technical College. His furniture has been exhibited at Carpenters Workshop Gallery, London; Pierre Marie Giraud, Brussels; Musée d'art Moderne de la Ville de Paris; and Salon 94, New York. In 2002 he won the Council of Fashion Designers of America Perry Ellis Emerging Talent Award, and in 2007 he was awarded the prestigious Cooper-Hewitt National Design Award.

Michèle Lamy (b. 1944, Jura, France) is an entrepreneur and producer, and collaborator, wife, and business partner to Rick Owens. During the 1960s and '70s, she worked in Paris as a defense attorney. In 1979 she moved to Los Angeles, where she created a clothing line, Lamy, and opened two landmark restaurants in Hollywood (*Café des Artistes* and *Les Deux Cafés*). In 2003 Lamy and Owens moved to Paris, and have been building their now widely celebrated world there since then. Within Owenscorp, Lamy functions as an instigator and special projects director. She works closely with the artisans in constructing the furniture, as well as on Maison Objets (homeware) and HUNROD, her collaboration with jewelry designer Loree Rodkin.

Rick Owens: Furniture is organized by MOCA Curatorial Assistant Rebecca Matalon.



Lead support for MOCA Pacific Design Center is provided by Charles S. Cohen.

Exhibitions at MOCA are supported by the MOCA Fund for Exhibitions with lead annual support provided by Delta Air Lines, Shari Glazer, Hästens, and Sydney Holland, founder of the Sydney D. Holland Foundation. Generous funding is also provided by Allison and Larry Berg, Jerri and Dr. Steven Nagelberg, and Thao Nguyen and Andreas Krainer.

In-kind media support is provided by KCETLink and KCRW 89.9 FM.

Image credit: Rick Owens, *PRONG*, 2011, black stained plywood, 31.5 x 35.4 x 19.7 in. (80 x 90 x 50 cm.), courtesy of Owenscorp

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, Wednesday, and Friday from 11am to 6pm; Thursday from 11am to 8pm; Saturday and Sunday from 11am to 5pm; and closed on Tuesday. 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 exhibition schedule for The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA. MOCA 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 MOCA Grand Avenue (located 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.

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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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