



THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, July 15, 2019

**MOCA ACQUIRES PERFORMANCE PIECE INTO
ITS PERMANENT COLLECTION**

XU ZHEN: IN JUST A BLINK OF AN EYE

MOCA Grand Avenue

July 27–September 1, 2019

On view Saturdays and Sundays



LOS ANGELES—The Museum of Contemporary Art has acquired a performance piece titled *In Just a Blink of an Eye* by Chinese artist Xu Zhen. The work will be on view at MOCA's Grand Avenue location every Saturday and Sunday beginning July 27 through September 1. *Xu Zhen: In Just a Blink of an Eye* features a group of performers floating mysteriously in mid-air, defying the constraints of physics as if frozen in time and space.

"This is a very exciting addition to MOCA's collection holdings, and an example of our new dedication to collecting performance art," says Amanda Hunt, MOCA's Director of Education and Senior Curator of Programs. "It is the museum's second performance piece in the collection and there will be more to come. This particular piece imparts a

MOCA ACQUIRES PERFORMANCE PIECE INTO ITS PERMANENT COLLECTION

Page 2 of 3

very powerful experience and I am so pleased that our audiences will get to immerse themselves in it over the coming weeks.”

The work engages notions of the body as material, and in turn the materiality of the body, testing the limits of physical and cognitive possibilities as the viewer tries to comprehend what we see. A prolific and experimental artist, Zhen’s conceptually-driven practice encompasses a vast range of media and often employs humor, irony, and sophisticated trickery. As the audience waits for movement, for the performer to stand up, or for them to continue to follow the rules of gravity, they instead experience time and stillness as moments extend and are stretched out on through these living sculptures. Xu Zhen explores fragility and balance, literally and metaphorically, spatially and temporally.

The work will be on view every Saturday and Sunday, starting on Saturday, July 27 through Sunday, September 1 at MOCA’s Grand Avenue location. No advance reservations or special tickets are needed to experience the performance.

Prior to this acquisition, MOCA had only one performance piece in its collection by Puerto Rico-based artists Jennifer Allora and Guillermo Calzadilla (Allora & Calzadilla), titled *Temperament and the Wolf* (2014/19). The duo recently reimagined the work specifically for the 2019 MOCA Benefit, centered around the gesture of welcoming guests into MOCA’s 40th year with the essential participation of MOCA staff and trustees.

About the artist

Born in 1977, living and working in Shanghai, China, Xu Zhen has exhibited internationally at museums and biennales, including, Venice Biennale (2001, 2005), The Museum of Modern Art (New York, 2004), Tate Liverpool (2007), among others. In 2004, he won the prize for “Best Artist” at the China Contemporary Art Award. His practice covers various mediums such as installations, video, painting, and performance. Recent exhibitions include *What About the Art?* (Al Riwaq Museum, Qatar, 2016), *Bentu* (Louis Vuitton Foundation, France, 2016), *Corporate* (Kunsthau Graz, Austria, 2015), *Xu Zhen Solo Exhibition* (Long Museum, Shanghai, China, 2015), *Blissful As Gods* (ShanghArt Gallery, Shanghai, China, 2014), *14 Rooms* (Beyeler Foundation, Basel, Switzerland 2014), *Xu Zhen-A Madeln Company Production* (Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, 2014), *The 12th Biennale of Lyon* (Lyon, France, 2013), *Art of Change* (Hayward Gallery, London, 2012).

Aside from being an artist, Xu Zhen is also a curator. He co-curated major exhibitions in Shanghai alongside other artists and was one of the initiators of Art-Ba-Ba in 2006, a leading online forum for discussion and critique of contemporary art in Shanghai. In 2009, Xu Zhen established Madeln Company, a contemporary art creation company, focused on the production of creativity and devoted to the research of contemporary culture’s infinite possibilities. In 2013, Madeln Company launched the brand “Xu Zhen” and in 2014 established Madeln Gallery.

Xu Zhen: In Just a Blink of an Eye is organized by Amanda Hunt, Director of Education and Senior Curator of Programs with the assistance of Alice Teng.

Exhibitions at MOCA are supported by the MOCA Fund for Exhibitions with major funding provided by The Offield Family Foundation and generous funding provided by Dr. Alexander and Judith Angerman, Earl and Shirley Greif Foundation, Sydney Holland, founder of the Sydney D. Holland Foundation, Nathalie Marciano and Julie Miyoshi, Steven and Jerri Nagelberg, and Jonathan M. Segal through the Rhonda S. Zinner Foundation.

Image credit: Xu Zhen, *In Just a Blink of an Eye* (2014), exhibition view of *14 Rooms*, curated by Klaus Biesenbach and Hans Ulrich Obrist, presented in Basel by Fondation Beyeler, Art Basel, Theater Basel in 2014. Courtesy of the artist and Fondation Beyeler. Photo by Mark Niedermann.

THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART



MOCA ACQUIRES PERFORMANCE PIECE INTO ITS PERMANENT COLLECTION

Page 3 of 3

About MOCA: Founded in 1979, MOCA is the defining museum of contemporary art. In a relatively short period of time, MOCA has achieved astonishing growth; a world-class permanent collection of more than 7,000 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. 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 all people on Thursdays from 5pm to 8pm. General admission at MOCA Grand Avenue and The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA is \$15 for adults; \$8 for students with I.D.; \$10 for seniors (65+); and free for children under 12 and jurors with I.D.

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.

MEDIA CONTACTS

Sarah Stifler
Chief Communications Officer
sstifler@moca.org
213/633-5363

Eva Seta
Associate Director, Communications
eseta@moca.org
213/633-5322