



THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

**MOCA PRESENTS**

***JENNIFER PACKER: EVERY SHUT EYE AIN'T ASLEEP***

**May 17, 2020 - November 30, 2020**

**The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA**



**LOS ANGELES**—*Jennifer Packer: Every Shut Eye Ain't Asleep* is the first exhibition on the West Coast of the artist's work and features roughly twenty new and recent paintings as well as drawings from this critically-acclaimed emerging artist. Over the past five years, Packer has received increasing attention for her portraits, interior scenes, and still-lives. The paintings are typically rendered with lyrical line and loose brush strokes in a saturated color palette, often to the extent that her subjects—who tend to be friends and family members—merge with or retreat into the background. Suggesting an emotional and psychological depth, the result of the artist's exchange with her sitters, Packer's work

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displays a virtuosic expressionistic style that brings forth nuanced representations of intimacy, identity and loss, forestalling straightforward narrative. "I think about images that resist, that attempt to retain their secrets or maintain their composure, that put you to work," she explains. "I hope to make works that suggest how dynamic and complex our lives and relationships really are."

"The subtle affect of Jennifer Packer's work has a political as well as aesthetic dimension," says MOCA Senior Curator Bennett Simpson. "Her figures may seem to withdraw or recline from obvious visibility, but in that defiance is strength, wisdom, critique, humanity."

Packer (b. 1984, Philadelphia; lives in New York) received her BFA from the Tyler University School of Art at Temple University in 2007, and her MFA from Yale University School of Art in 2012. She was the 2012-2013 Artist-in-Residence at the Studio Museum in Harlem, and a Visual Arts Fellow at the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, MA, from 2014-2016. Her most recent solo museum exhibition, *Tenderheaded*, exhibited at the Renaissance Society, Chicago in the fall of 2017 before travelling to the Rose Museum at Brandeis University in March of 2018. Most recently, she was featured prominently in the 2019 Whitney Biennial. Packer is currently an assistant professor in the painting department at the Rhode Island School of Design. Organized by MOCA Senior Curator Bennett Simpson.

*Jennifer Packer: Every Shut Eye Ain't Asleep* is organized by is organized by Bennett Simpson, Senior Curator, with Kimberly Kitada, Curatorial Assistant, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles.

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Image credit: Jennifer Packer, *The Body Has Memory*, 2018, oil on canvas, 60 x 48 in. (152.4 x 121.9 cm). Collection of Miyoung Lee and Neil Simpkins.

## THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

**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](http://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 to MOCA is free. Special exhibitions at MOCA are \$18 for adults; \$10 for students with I.D. and seniors (+65); and free for children under 12 and jurors with I.D. Special exhibitions are free every Thursday from 5pm to 8pm. MOCA members always receive free admission to special exhibitions.

**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](http://moca.org).

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