



THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

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JOSH KLINE'S *CLIMATE CHANGE* DEBUTS JUNE 23 AT MOCA

EXHIBITION MARKS KLINE'S FIRST WEST COAST MUSEUM EXHIBITION

**MOCA Grand Avenue
June 23, 2024–January 5, 2025**



Josh Kline, *Capture and Sequestration: Cigarettes* (still), 2023. Single-channel high-definition video (color, sound), 13:31 min. Image courtesy of the artist.
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LOS ANGELES—The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) is pleased to present *Josh Kline: Climate Change* from June 23, 2024 through January 5, 2025 at MOCA Grand Avenue. The inaugural West Coast museum exhibition for New York-based artist Josh Kline (b. 1979, Philadelphia), the exhibition brings together—for the first time—the major works from Kline's epic saga about the climate crisis, exploring the close-at-hand ramifications of human inaction on global warming. Organized by Rebecca Lowery, Associate Curator, with Emilia Nicholson-Fajardo,

Curatorial Assistant, *Josh Kline: Climate Change* features artworks dating from 2019 to the present and includes the debut of several new sculptures specially commissioned by MOCA.

Kline, whose work is steeped in “complexity and purposefulness” (*ARTnews*), is known for creating immersive installations using video, sculpture, photography, and architecture. He is distinguished among artists of his generation in his focus on class, labor, and inequity in the contemporary United States. *Climate Change* is both an exhibition and a total work of art—an ambitious, immersive suite of sci-fi installations that imagines a future sculpted by ruinous climate crisis and the ordinary people destined to inhabit it. Originally conceived in 2014 as a chapter in a multipart cycle of installations about political and technological upheaval in the 21st century, *Climate Change* has been made in sections over the last six years. The major elements of Kline’s eponymous project will be brought together for the first time at MOCA.

“We are thrilled to present Josh Kline’s first West Coast museum exhibition,” said Johanna Burton, The Maurice Marciano Director. “The themes explored in Kline’s work are urgent and prescient as society grapples with the fast-moving impacts of climate change. This exhibition is a testament to MOCA’s commitment towards presenting work that delves deeply into critical environmental and other social issues, and we look forward to seeing the dialogue that the exhibition inspires.”

Mobilizing sculpture, moving image, photography, ephemeral materials, and lighting in order to completely transform the galleries of MOCA Grand Avenue, *Climate Change* is a visceral, charged Gesamtkunstwerk of our contemporary times. In this vision, which could be called dystopian but in truth is terrifyingly near, a catastrophic sea-level rise has inundated the world’s coasts, unleashing a flood of hundreds of millions of traumatized refugees. What happens in a world where the systems built to sustain and extend capitalist enterprise and global political hegemony melt down their own foundations? Kline opens the door to such a future, inviting us to place ourselves within it and consider the rear view.

“Kline’s work is layered, meticulous, and essential in its clear articulation of the problems of the present day and how they will impact human life in the near future,” says Lowery. “We are honored to have supported the production of several new artworks for this exhibition, and thrilled to share the artist’s project with MOCA’s diverse audiences within and outside of Los Angeles, a city that has played a significant role in the imagination of this saga.”

Josh Kline: Climate Change will be accompanied by a fully-illustrated publication featuring original installation photography from this exhibition; an essay by Lowery situating Kline’s work within the nexus of contemporary petro-culture and the towering Hollywood entertainment monolith, itself a direct product of the oil rush of the 1920s; and essays from guest contributors Lauren Cornell and Matilde Guidelli-Guidi. The catalogue is designed by Practise and will be published in Fall 2024.

In conjunction with *Josh Kline: Climate Change*, and with support from The Manitou Fund, the

museum will present public and educational programs exploring climate and environmental justice. The exhibition is also supported by the MOCA Environmental Council, a first-of-its-kind affinity group for a major art museum in the United States, which focuses on climate and environmental justice in alignment with the museum's mission. As the creative work of artists is pivotal to both awareness and action, the museum's artist collaborations and exhibitions play an indispensable role in fostering dialogue around pressing environmental issues.

About Josh Kline

Born and raised in Philadelphia, Josh Kline (b. 1979, Philadelphia; lives and works in New York) is mixed-race and Filipino-American. Since moving to New York in the aftermath of 9/11, he has developed a highly influential body of work centered on the dynamics between work and class, examining how contemporary social and political issues such as climate change, automation, and the fragility of democracy affect the labor force. He often utilizes the technologies, practices, and forms that he scrutinizes—including digitization, data collection, image manipulation, biometric scanning, 3D printing, commercial and political advertising, productivity-enhancing substances—aiming them back at themselves. Some of his most well-known videos use early deep fake software to speculate on the meaning of truth in a time of post-truth propaganda. Meanwhile, his 16mm film works channel Hollywood's power to communicate with a broader audience as he searches for a science fiction of ordinary people. Primarily working through the lens of class, with a nuanced take on race that reflects his own multiethnic heritage, Kline's art demonstrates how technology has widened and reinforced inequity in America while also conveying its untapped, radical potential to build a fairer world.

Kline has been included in recent major exhibitions spotlighting artists working with technology such as *Surround Audience*, the 2015 New Museum Triennial, New York; *Art in the Age of the Internet: 1989 to Today* at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston; *The Body Electric* at the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; *The Irreplaceable Human* at Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk, Denmark; *New Order: Art and Technology in the Twenty-First Century* at The Museum of Modern Art, New York; and *Speculations on Anonymous Materials* at Kunsthalle Fridericianum, Kassel, Germany. In 2020, his first survey, *Antibodies*, was presented at the Astrup Fearnley Museum, Oslo, Norway; and in 2022, a solo exhibition, *Adaptation*, was presented by LAXART (now The Brick), Los Angeles. Kline's mid-career survey, *Project for a New American Century*, was presented at New York's Whitney Museum of American Art in 2023. In 2024, Kline's work has been included in the 24th Biennale of Sydney and the 8th Yokohama Triennale.

Josh Kline: Climate Change is organized by Rebecca Lowery, Associate Curator, with Emilia Nicholson-Fajardo, Curatorial Assistant, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles.

Support

General admission to MOCA is free courtesy of Carolyn Clark Powers.

Lead support is provided by the MOCA Environmental Council, Cameron Winklevoss and Tyler Winklevoss, and Nora McNeely Hurley and Manitou Fund.

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This exhibition is carbon calculated. The museum reduced greenhouse gas emissions through planning efforts and balanced the remaining emissions through Strategic Climate Fund donations. Support provided by the MOCA Environmental Council.

About The Museum of Contemporary Art (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 collection of nearly 8,000 objects, international in scope with deep holdings in Los Angeles art; 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.

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.

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On view through June 16, 2024

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The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA
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Reverberations

MOCA Grand Avenue
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Josh Kline: Climate Change

MOCA Grand Avenue
June 23, 2024-January 5, 2025

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