

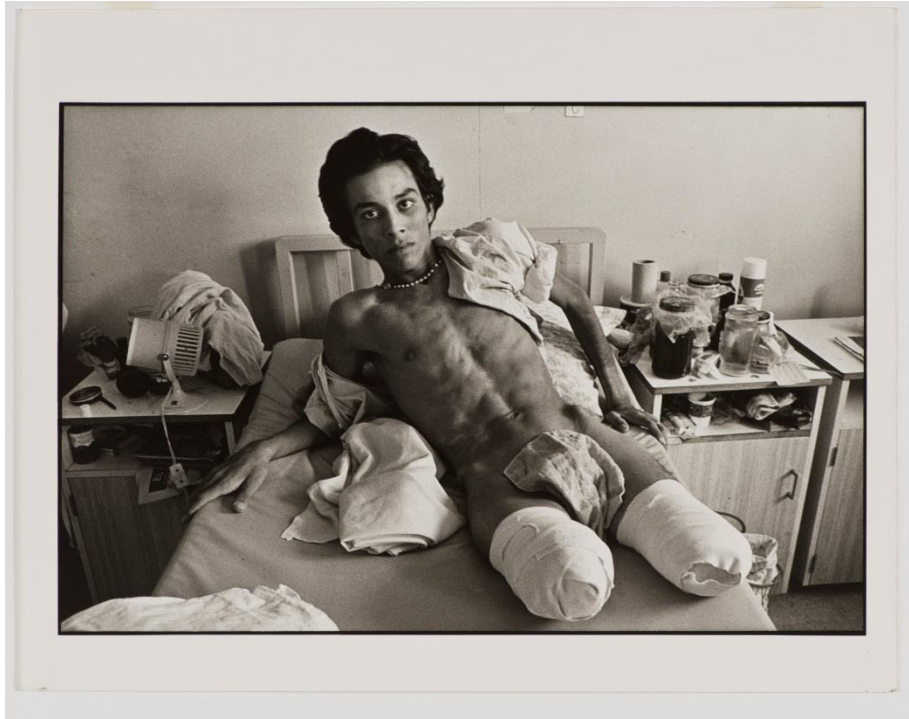
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Houseguest: William E. Jones

Imitation of Christ

On view at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, May 18 – August 18, 2013



Pedro Meyer. *El Guerrillero herido (Wounded guerrilla fighter)*, ca. 1982-1985. Gelatin silver print. 8 1/2 x 12 7/8 in. Collection UCLA Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts, Hammer Museum. Purchase. Art ©Pedro Meyer. Photo by Brian Forrest.

Los Angeles— For each exhibition in the Houseguest series, an artist is invited to curate an installation based on the Hammer Museum's and UCLA's permanent collections. For his exhibition, titled *Imitation of Christ*, the Los Angeles-based artist **William E. Jones** was inspired by a photograph of a wounded guerrilla fighter taken by Pedro Meyer in Nicaragua in the early 1980s.

The selection of works is loosely based upon aspects of this powerful and disturbing photograph; among them are the nudity and concealment of the subject's body, its status as a document of the trauma of war, and the notion that its subject has made a sacrifice for a higher purpose.

The exhibition also asks two disparate questions: how is it possible to make an image of revolution, and how is it possible to make a religious image? Through a diverse group of objects—including Renaissance and Baroque prints and drawings, documentary photographs, Latin American art, and rare books—Jones questions the contemporary viewer's perception of Christ and examines the parallels between religion and revolution. The Houseguest series is organized by curator **Allegra Pesenti**.

William E. Jones, born in Ohio in 1962, is an artist and filmmaker based in Los Angeles. After receiving his undergraduate degree from Yale University in 1985, he went on to complete his MFA in 1990 at California Institute of the Arts, Valencia. His subtle and often deeply researched films, videos, installations, and writings have covered a wide range of topics including gay subcultures, the production and counterfeiting of currency, and the materiality of film and photography as mediums. These projects have been the focus of solo exhibitions at The Modern Institute, Glasgow, Scotland; the Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, OH; White Cube, London; and David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles. His films have received retrospectives at Tate Modern, London (2005), Anthology Film Archives, New York (2010), and the Austrian Film Museum, Vienna (2011). Important group exhibitions include the 1993 and 2008 Whitney Biennials, the Nordic Pavilion at the 53rd Venice Biennale in 2009, and the 12th Istanbul Biennial in 2011. In addition, Jones has also published numerous artists' books, including *Tearoom* (2008), *Heliogabalus* (2009), *Killed: Rejected Images of the Farm Security Administration* (2010), and *Halsted Plays Himself* (2011).

ABOUT THE HAMMER MUSEUM

The Hammer Museum, a public arts unit of the University of California, Los Angeles, is dedicated to exploring the diversity of artistic expression through the ages. Its collections, exhibitions, and programs span the classic to the cutting-edge in art, architecture, and design, recognizing that artists play a crucial role in all aspects of culture and society.

Founded by Dr. Armand Hammer in 1990, the museum houses the Armand Hammer Collection of Old Master, Impressionist, and Post-Impressionist paintings and the Armand Hammer Daumier and Contemporaries Collection. Associated UCLA collections include the Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts, comprising more than 45,000 prints, drawings, photographs, and artists' books from the Renaissance to the present; and the Franklin D. Murphy Sculpture Garden on the UCLA campus. The Hammer's newest collection, the Hammer Contemporary Collection, is led by works on paper, particularly drawings and photographs from 1960 to the present.

The Hammer presents major single-artist and thematic exhibitions of historical and contemporary art. It also presents approximately ten Hammer Projects exhibitions each year, providing international and local artists with a laboratory-like environment to create new work or to present existing work in a new context.

As a cultural center, the Hammer offers a diverse range of free public programs throughout the year, including lectures, readings, symposia, film screenings, and music performances. The Hammer's Billy Wilder Theater houses these widely acclaimed public programs and is the new home of the UCLA Film & Television Archive's renowned cinematheque.

HAMMER MUSEUM INFORMATION

For current program and exhibition information call **310-443-7000** or visit **www.hammer.ucla.edu**.

Hours: Tuesday–Friday 11am–8pm; Saturday & Sunday 11am–5pm; closed Mondays, July 4, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

Admission: \$10 for adults; \$5 for seniors (65+) and UCLA Alumni Association members; free for Museum members, students with identification, UCLA faculty/staff, military personnel, veterans, and visitors 17 and under. The Museum is free on Thursdays for all visitors. Public programs are always free.

Location/Parking: The Hammer is located at 10899 Wilshire Boulevard, at Westwood Boulevard. Parking is available under the Museum. Rate is \$3 for three hours with Museum validation. Bicycles park free.

Hammer Museum Tours: For group tour reservations and information, call 310-443-7041.