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Hammer Museum Announces 26 Artists for Upcoming Biennial

Made in L.A. 2016: a, the, though, only

On View June 12 – August 28, 2016

(Los Angeles, CA) — The Hammer Museum announced today the artists participating in [*Made in L.A. 2016: a, the, though, only*](#), the third iteration of the Hammer’s biennial exhibition highlighting the practices of artists working throughout the greater Los Angeles area. Organized by Hammer curator [Aram Moshayedi and Hamza Walker](#), Director of Education and Associate Curator at the Renaissance Society in Chicago, *Made in L.A. 2016* is on view **June 12 – August 28, 2016** at the Hammer Museum. Subtitled by the minimalist poet and writer **Aram Saroyan** as his contribution to the exhibition, *Made in L.A. 2016: a, the, though, only* includes 26 contributing artists and participants.

“Each *Made in L.A.* sheds a new light on the work being made by Los Angeles artists, expanding on previous versions of the exhibition,” said **Hammer Museum director Ann Philbin**. “*Made in L.A. 2016* investigates what is vital and distinctive about this city as an international destination and cutting edge art center, and how its artists—from vastly different backgrounds and disciplines—resist and defy categorization.”

Made in L.A. 2016 features in-depth presentations of individual bodies of work—from condensed monographic surveys by artists **Kenzi Shiokava** and **Huguette Caland** to comprehensive displays of multiyear projects. This exhibition includes newly commissioned works from emerging artists, extending into such disciplines as dance, fashion, literature, music, and film. New projects by a selection of younger artists consider the roles of other visual and literary forms within their practices.

Participants

- Kelly Akashi (b. 1983, Los Angeles, CA)
- Huguette Caland (b. 1931, Beirut, Lebanon)
- Eckhaus Latta (est. 2011; Zoe Latta, b. 1987, Santa Cruz, CA, Mike Eckhaus, b. 1987, New York, NY)
- Rafa Esparza (b. 1981, Los Angeles, CA)
- Lauren Davis Fisher (b. 1984, Cambridge, MA)
- Todd Gray (b. 1954, Los Angeles, CA)
- Joel Holmberg (b. 1982, Bethesda, MD)
- Margaret Honda (b. 1961, San Diego, CA)
- Arthur Jafa (b. 1960, Tupelo, MS)
- Labor Link TV (est. 1988; Fred Lonidier, b. 1942, Lakeview, OR)
- Laida Lertxundi (b. 1981, Bilbao, Spain)
- Adam Linder (b. 1983, Sydney, Australia)
- Guthrie Lonergan (b. 1984, Los Angeles, CA)
- Rebecca Morris (b.1969, Honolulu, HI)
- Shahryar Nashat (b. 1975, Geneva, Switzerland)
- Silke Otto-Knapp (b.1970, Osnabrück, Germany)
- Gala Porras-Kim (b. 1984, Bogotá, Colombia)
- Sterling Ruby (b. 1972, Bitburg, Germany)
- Aram Saroyan (b. 1943, New York, NY)
- Kenzi Shiokava (b. 1938, São Paulo, Brazil)
- Daniel R. Small (b.1984, Centralia, IL)
- Wadada Leo Smith (b.1941, Leland, MS)
- Martine Syms (b. 1988, Los Angeles, CA)
- Kenneth Tam (b. 1982, New York, NY)
- Mark Verabioff (b. 1963, Kingston, Canada)
- Dena Yago (b. 1988, New York, NY)

As part of their research, Moshayedi and Walker visited studios across Southern California, spanning Chinatown, Compton, Downtown, East Los Angeles, Echo Park, Highland Park, Inglewood, Joshua Tree,

Ladera Heights, Leimert Park, San Diego, Santa Monica, Venice, and Ventura.

The exhibition addresses Los Angeles as a nexus of activity inseparable from the global network of art production, revealing how artists move fluidly between contexts and respond to their local conditions. The participating artists come from countries such as Australia, Brazil, Canada, Columbia, Germany, Lebanon, Spain, and Switzerland, and disregard any pretense of a unifying regional aesthetic, sensibility, or identity that has tended to be historically associated with Los Angeles.

Made in L.A. 2016 focuses on a selection of artists from different disciplinary backgrounds, allowing the individual projects to guide the shape and parameters of the overall exhibition. For their contribution, fashion designers **Eckhaus Latta** create merchandise and marketing campaigns specifically for the Hammer that are inherently tied to the objectives of their clothing label; and the work of artist **Guthrie Loneragan** inhabits the museum's expansive digital spaces, including the website, that are normally reserved for external communications.

Aram Saroyan's subtitle—a new poem commissioned specifically for ***Made in L.A. 2016: a, the, though, only***—functions in a similar manner, occupying the space of the exhibition's marketing and communications while lacking any physical presence in the galleries. The tendencies of ephemerality and physicality are further underscored by such artists as **Todd Gray**, who goes about the routines of his daily life independently of the exhibition at the Hammer while wearing the clothing of his late friend and collaborator Ray Manzarek—co-founder and keyboardist of The Doors—until ***Made in L.A. 2016*** closes on August 28.

Performances and public programs also play a central role, accompanying the exhibition and taking place within the context of site-specific installations by artists **Rafa Esparza**, **Lauren Davis Fisher**, and choreographer **Adam Linder**. Additionally, artists such as **Martine Syms**, **Shahryar Nashat**, and **Kenneth Tam** debut film/video works that were produced as part of *Made in L.A.*'s emphasis on new commissions.

MOHN AWARDS

Funded through the generosity of Los Angeles philanthropists and art collectors Jarl and Pamela Mohn, The **Mohn Award** (\$100,000) and the **Career Achievement Award** (\$25,000) will be selected by a professional jury, and the **Public Recognition Award** (\$25,000) will be determined through a public vote. All the artists in the exhibition are eligible to [receive the awards](#). In 2014 Alice Könitz, creator of The Los Angeles Museum of Art, received the Mohn Award; Magdalena Suarez Frimkess and Michael Frimkess received the Career Achievement Award; and Jennifer Moon received the Public Recognition Award. In 2012 Meleko Mokgosi received the Mohn Award.

Jarl Mohn said, "The Hammer's *Made In L.A.* biennial has quickly become known as definitive source of recognizing brilliant new emerging artists and long time under-recognized creators of innovative art. This biennial is the early forecast system for creative genius in Los Angeles."

CATALOGUE

Made in L.A. 2016: a, the, though, only is accompanied by a fully-illustrated catalogue that functions as an extension of the exhibition. Built around a broad range of material, developed in collaboration with each participating artist and contributor, the catalogue includes commissioned essays and texts by artists, curators, critics, and writers, including **George Clark**, **María Palacios Cruz**, **Raquel Gutiérrez**, **Sandy Lajer**, **Sarah Lehrer-Graiwer**, **Sohrab Mohebbi**, **Ed Moses**, **Janet Sarbanes**, **Rachelle Sawatsky**, **Kitty Scott**, **Oscar Tuazon**, and **Robert Wilhite**. The catalogue is designed by Joseph Logan Design, a New York-based design studio, and is co-published with DelMonico Books, an imprint of Prestel Publishing.

PROGRAMS

Made in L.A. 2016: a, the, though, only will be accompanied by a robust schedule of free public programs, including live performances, film screenings, a music series, conversations among participating artists, and student events. Programming information will be announced in May at www.hammer.ucla.edu.

ABOUT MADE IN L.A.

The Hammer's biennial exhibition series *Made in L.A.* focuses exclusively on artists from the L.A. region with an emphasis on emerging and under-recognized artists. The Los Angeles biennial debuts new installations, videos, films, sculptures, performances, and paintings commissioned specifically for the exhibition and offers insight into the current trends and practices coming out of Los Angeles, one of the most active and energetic art communities in the world. *Made in L.A.* began in 2012 with a second iteration in 2014, and followed the tradition of the Hammer Invitational exhibitions, which occurred every two years and included *Snapshot* (2001), *International Paper* (2003), *Thing* (2005), *Eden's Edge* (2007), *Nine Lives* (2009), and *All of this and nothing* (2011).

Made in L.A. 2012 was organized by a team of curators from the Hammer Museum and LA><ART: Hammer Senior Curator Anne Ellegood, Hammer Curator Ali Subotnick, LA><ART Director and Chief Curator Lauri Firstenberg, LA><ART Associate Director and Senior Curator Cesar Garcia, and LA><ART Curator-at-large Malik Gaines.

Made in L.A. 2014 was co-curated by Hammer Chief Curator Connie Butler and Los Angeles based independent curator Michael Ned Holte.

CREDIT

The exhibition is presented by



The Hammer is pleased to have Wells Fargo once again as *Made in L.A.*'s Presenting Sponsor, showing their continued and substantial commitment to this biennial event.

"Wells Fargo has a long and robust tradition of supporting arts and culture across Los Angeles. We are honored to be part of what has become one of L.A.'s most exciting and ongoing cultural events showcasing emerging and under-recognized artists," shares **David DiCristofaro, Wells Fargo Lead Region President for Greater Los Angeles**. "*Made in L.A.* demonstrates the Hammer's commitment to Los Angeles's artistic community and reflects their broader commitment to Los Angeles. It is that kind of cultural and civic leadership that Wells Fargo is proud to support and celebrate as it brings visibility to the dynamic talent and experiences that make up our great City of Los Angeles."

Major support is provided by the Mohn Family Foundation and the members of the Hammer Circle.

ABOUT THE HAMMER MUSEUM

The Hammer Museum at UCLA offers exhibitions and collections that span classic to contemporary art, as well as programs that spark meaningful encounters with art and ideas. Through a wide-ranging, international exhibition program and the biennial, *Made in L.A.*, the Hammer highlights contemporary art since the 1960s, especially the work of emerging and under-recognized artists. The exhibitions, permanent collections, and nearly 300 public programs annually—including film screenings, lectures, symposia, readings, music performances, and workshops for families—are all free to the public.

HAMMER MUSEUM INFORMATION

Admission to all exhibitions and programs at the Hammer Museum is free, made possible through the generosity of benefactors Erika J. Glazer and Brenda R. Potter. Hours: Tuesday–Friday 11 a.m.–8 p.m., Saturday & Sunday 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Closed Mondays and national holidays. Hammer Museum, 10899 Wilshire Boulevard at Westwood, Los Angeles. Onsite parking \$3 (maximum 3 hours) or \$3 flat rate after 6 p.m. Visit hammer.ucla.edu for details or call 310-443-7041.