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Hammer Museum Announces Recipients of Mohn Awards
Made in L.A. 2016: a, the, though, only
On view through August 28, 2016



(Los Angeles, CA) — The Hammer Museum today announced the recipients of [the Mohn Awards](#) presented in conjunction with ***Made in L.A. 2016: a, the, though, only***, organized by Hammer curator Aram Moshayedi and Hamza Walker, director of education and associate curator, Renaissance Society. Dancer and choreographer **Adam Linder** will receive the **\$100,000 Mohn Award** honoring artistic excellence as well as a monograph produced by the Hammer. **Wadada Leo Smith** will receive the **\$25,000 Career Achievement Award** honoring brilliance and resilience; and **Kenzi Shiokava** will receive the **\$25,000 Public Recognition Award** as determined by a public vote.

“It’s exciting for us to see a dancer chosen for the Mohn Award, and Adam’s work was a standout for its nuanced choreography and evocative visual and sound design. Wadada Leo Smith, another performer, was recognized for his achievements as a musician and a mentor as well as the decades-long development of his system of musical notation,” said **Ann Philbin, Director of the Hammer Museum**.

A jury of professional curators selected the Mohn Award and the Career Achievement Award while the Public Recognition Award was determined by on-site voting from June 11 through August 14, 2016. The jury included **Ingrid Schaffner**, curator, 57th Carnegie International, 2018, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, **Mika Yoshitake**, associate curator, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, and **Jose Luis Blondet**, curator, Special Initiatives, Los Angeles County Museum of Art. All three awards were once again funded through the generosity of Los Angeles philanthropists and art collectors **Jarl and Pamela Mohn** and the Mohn Family Foundation as part of **Made in L.A.**, the Hammer’s biennial exhibition series highlighting emerging and under-recognized artists from the Los Angeles region.

“Curators Aram Moshayedi and Hamza Walker selected a tight group of artists and offered them room to stretch. This exhibition is stunning in terms of the range of practices and performers, the depth of

exploration, and the array of programs it presents. It's as if everyone won and gave a prize through their participation in *Made in L.A. 2016: a, the, though, only*," said **Ingrid Schaffner**.

"In this year's Made in L.A., **Adam Linder's** *Kein Paradiso* stood out as a tour de force. The jurors were struck by Linder's inventive consideration of the latent role of presence through layers of formalist modernist histories and interplay of props and choreography," wrote **Mika Yoshitake**.

"The jury wants to acknowledge **Wadada Leo Smith's** outstanding achievements as a musician, his influential work as a teacher and a mentor for younger artists in Los Angeles, and the decades-long expansion of an inventive, complex and layered system of notation simultaneously interrogating the pictorial and the performative," stated **Jose Luis Blondet**.

Visitors to Made in L.A. choose the recipient of the \$25,000 Public Recognition Award by voting for **Kenzi Shiokava** through on-site kiosks located throughout the museum.

Totaling \$150,000, the Mohn Awards are among the largest art prizes dedicated to recognizing the work of emerging and under-recognized artists from the greater Los Angeles region. 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, which was selected by both a professional jury and the public.

About the Award Recipients

Adam Linder (b. 1983, Sydney, Australia) was trained as a dancer at the Royal Ballet School in London. He has choreographed stage works, including *Auto Ficto Reflexo* (2015), *Parade* (2013), *Cult to the Built on What* (2013), for both dance contexts and in spaces typically devoted to visual art. *Kein Paradiso*—a new work created for *Made in L.A. 2016*—is a choreography for three performers who engage with formalist approaches to movement and push against the notions of universality and singularity left over from the history of modern and postmodern dance. In the days between performances, the stage pieces and props for the work remain in the space as a self-aware and deflated theatrical residue, marking the dormant space as a site of ongoing activity. Through a soundtrack that plays continuously in place of the three performers, the installation takes into account its exposed state in the interim moments when an audience awaits a given performance.

Wadada Leo Smith (b. 1941, Leland, Mississippi) trained as a musician through the U.S. military band program, at the Sherwood School of Music, and at Wesleyan University. In the 1960s and 1970s Smith worked with the Chicago-based Association for the Advancement of Creative Music. He was on the faculty at California Institute of the Arts from 1993 until his retirement in 2013. His presentation in *Made in L.A. 2016* featured a selection of scores created from 1968 to 2014 in the form of musical notation called Ankhration, created by the artist in the 1960s. These scores demonstrate his early use of the notation's signature cuneiform-like glyph, and his later expansion in the use of color, repertoire of signs, and compositional approaches to the page as a whole.

Kenzi Shiokava (b. 1938, Santa Cruz do Rio Pardo, Brazil) has lived in Los Angeles since 1964. Shiokava received a BFA from the Chouinard Art Institute in 1972 and an MFA from Otis Art Institute in 1974. His work includes carved wood totems and mixed-media assemblages. Together, these very different sculptural practices bookend a narrative spanning more than 50 years. Shiokava is Japanese Brazilian and his work embodies a cultural hybridity. Shiokava's totems evoke a ritual form imbued with symbolic import while his assemblages are often marked by juxtapositions of natural and industrially produced forms. Much of his work incorporates plant matter, thus speaking to a broad definition of culture, one involving an adaptation of natural resources to human ends.

About Jarl Mohn

Jarl and Pamela Mohn are art collectors committed to supporting emerging L.A. artists. Professionally, Jarl Mohn divides his time between being a corporate director and advisor to a number of media companies, making direct

early stage angel and seed investments in digital media/technology ventures, and managing The Mohn Family Foundation—the philanthropic entity that he and his wife created in 2000. In addition to supporting arts initiatives, the Mohn Family Foundation funded the Mohn Broadcast Center for KPCC, a significant contribution to Public Radio in Southern California. Mohn is the former Chair of the ACLU Foundation of Southern California, and the former Chair of The Annenberg School at USC.

Previously he was the founding President and CEO of Liberty Digital, a public company that invested in the internet and digital media. Prior to Liberty Digital, Mohn created E! Entertainment Television serving as its President and CEO from January 1990 to December 1998. Mohn was formerly Executive Vice President and General Manager of MTV and VH1 from 1986 to 1990 where he led the transformation from music videos to long form programming. Prior to his career in television, Mohn had a 19-year career in radio. He began as a disc jockey and rose through the ranks as a programmer, general manager, and then owner of a group of radio stations.

Originally from Doylestown, Pennsylvania, Mohn attended Philadelphia’s Temple University where he studied mathematics and philosophy. He currently lives in Brentwood with his wife. Jarl and Pamela Mohn’s commitment to the awards extends through the first five cycles of *Made in L.A.* with the option to continue beyond.

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.

Exhibition Credit

The exhibition is presented by Wells Fargo.

The exhibition is made possible, in part, by the Mohn Family Foundation and members of the Hammer Circle.

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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 \$6 (3 hours) or \$6 flat rate after 6 p.m. Visit hammer.ucla.edu or call 310-443-7000.