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MELEKO MOKGOSI TO RECEIVE THE MOHN AWARD
A professional jury and the public selected the recipient of the award



Meleko Mokgosi. *Pax Kaffraria: Sikhuselo Sembumbulu*, 2012. Oil on canvas. 96 x 584 in. (243.8 x 1483.4 cm). *Made in L.A.* Installation view at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, June 2-September 2, 2012. Photo by Brian Forrest.

Los Angeles—The Hammer Museum has announced that **Meleko Mokgosi** (b. 1981 Francistown, Botswana) is the recipient of the inaugural Mohn Award. A recent UCLA grad (MFA '11), Mokgosi's monumental painting on view at the Hammer is provocative, deeply political, and grapples with the complexities of post-colonial Africa and issues of representation. Funded through the generosity of Los Angeles philanthropists and art collectors Jarl and Pamela Mohn, the \$100,000 award will be granted over two years to Mokgosi and will be accompanied by the publication of a monograph about his work. While a jury of professional curators selected five finalists from among the 60 artists in the exhibition *Made in L.A. 2012*, the Mohn Award recipient was chosen by visitors to the exhibition through online and on-site voting. Public voting began on June 28 and ended August 12. The public was asked to choose their favorite artist from the five jury-selected finalists.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Meleko Mokgosi uses painting to interrogate the limits of representation, the politics of abstraction, and the dynamics created when viewing representational canvases on institutional gallery walls. The artist's technical acuity delivers a kind of critical visuality, asking viewers to draw out affinities between experiencing and interpreting. The work on view at the Hammer is part of a larger series dealing with post-colonial Africa. *Pax Kaffraria: Sikhuselo Sembumbulu* (2012) addresses the question of nationalism in relation to globalization and resistance. The work meditates on *sikhuselo sembumbulu*, a Xhosa term meaning "bulletproof." This is a reference to the Xhosa cattle killings of 1856–57, which were intended to drive away colonial powers and simultaneously resurrect ancestors. The series of paintings frames the historic event and considers a legacy of resistance that continues today—namely, the persistent drive to become bulletproof. At the same time this history is represented as only partially available to viewers, suggesting the difficulty of cultural translation.

FIVE FINALISTS FOR MOHN AWARD:

- **Simone Forti** (Born 1935 in Florence, Italy; lives and works in Westwood) Work on view at the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery in Barnsdall Park and performances scheduled at both the Hammer and Barnsdall in August.
- **Liz Glynn** (Born 1981 in Boston, MA; lives and works in Chinatown) Work on view at the Hammer Museum.
- **Meleko Mokgosi** (Born 1981 in Gaborone, Botswana; lives and works in Culver City) Work on view at the Hammer Museum.
- **Slanguage** (Karla Diaz born 1976 in Los Angeles & Mario Ybarra Jr. born 1973 in Los Angeles; Both live and work in Wilmington) Programs throughout the summer and work on view at LA><ART.
- **Erika Vogt** (Born 1973 in East Newark, New Jersey; lives and works in Highland Park) Work on view at the Hammer Museum.

MOHN AWARD JURY:

- Cecilia Alemani, curator and director of High Line Art Program
- Doryun Chong, associate curator at the Museum of Modern Art
- Rita Gonzalez, curator of contemporary art at LACMA
- Anthony Huberman, independent curator and writer

MADE IN L.A. 2012

The Mohn Award was established in conjunction with the inauguration of *Made in L.A. 2012*, a biennial exhibition highlighting emerging and overlooked artists from the Los Angeles region. Jarl and Pamela Mohn's commitment to the award will be ongoing in future years. *Made in L.A. 2012* features 60 artists and three venues throughout the city: the Hammer Museum in Westwood, the Department of Cultural Affairs' Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery at Barnsdall Park in Los Feliz, and LA><ART in Culver City.

PUBLIC VOTING

Voter registration was available on-site at the three *Made in L.A. 2012* venues. A photo ID was required. Once registered, a voter was able to cast his or her vote on-site or online at <http://vote.madeinla2012.org>. This process ensured that each voter had actually attended the exhibition and that each person only cast one vote. The Hammer worked with Trofee, a state certified digital voting platform, to ensure that the voting was secure and the results authenticated.

Voter registration opened to the public on June 2, 2012. Voting began Thursday, June 28, at 12pm PST and ended on Sunday, August 12 at 11:59PM PST.

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 he and his wife created in 2000. In addition to supporting arts initiatives, the Mohn Family Foundation funded the Mohn Broadcast Center for 89.3 KPCC FM, a significant contribution to Public Radio in Southern California.

Previously he was the founding President and CEO of Liberty Digital, a public company that invested in interactive television, cable networks, and the internet. Prior to Liberty Digital, Jarl 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 moved 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.

Made in L.A. 2012 is organized by the Hammer Museum in collaboration with LA><ART.

The exhibition is presented by



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The Venice Beach Biennial is made possible by the Teiger Foundation.

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Additional support is provided by the Pasadena Art Alliance; Alumnos 47; ForYourArt; and the LA><ART Producers Council.

KCRW 89.9 FM is the official radio sponsor. *Los Angeles* magazine is the official print sponsor. Special thanks to American Apparel.



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.

The museum houses the Armand Hammer Collection of Old Master, Impressionist, and Post-Impressionist paintings and the Armand Hammer Daumier and Contemporaries Collection. The museum also houses 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 oversees the management of the Franklin D. Murphy Sculpture Garden on the UCLA campus. The Hammer's newest collection, the Hammer Contemporary Collection, is highlighted by works by artists such as Lari Pittman, Kara Walker, Ed Ruscha, Barbara Kruger, Mark Bradford, Richard Hawkins, Lynn Foulkes, among many others.

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 – 5 pm; 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.