POMONA COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART ANNOUNCES “R.S.V.P. LOS ANGELES: THE PROJECT SERIES AT POMONA” CELEBRATING A MILESTONE: 50 EXHIBITIONS IN THE SERIES


Installation view at the Pomona College Museum of Art of “R.S.V.P. Los Angeles: The Project Series at Pomona,” works by Michael Decker.

CLAREMONT—“R.S.V.P. Los Angeles: The Project Series at Pomona” celebrates the milestone of 50 Project Series exhibitions by connecting the extraordinary artists who have been part of the program with a new generation of artists based in the Los Angeles area. The exhibition features seven artists—Justin Cole, Michael Decker, Naotaka Hiro, Wakana Kimura, Aydinaneth Ortiz, Michael Parker and Nikki Pressley—and is unified by a unique curatorial process. The exhibition will run from Sept. 1 to Dec. 19, 2015, and the opening reception is Saturday, Sept. 12 from 5 to 7 p.m. and will include a roundtable conversation with
artists Charles Gaines, Justin Cole and Nikki Pressley at 4 p.m. in Seaver House, right across from the Museum.

To celebrate the Project Series and to broaden the curatorial perspective, a committee comprised of Pomona College faculty, students, and Museum staff collectively determined the artists, exhibition strategies and publication content. The committee consists of Rebecca McGrew, senior curator; Terri Geis, curator of academic programs; Lisa Anne Auerbach, assistant professor of art; Ian Byers-Gamber, Pomona College Class of 2014; Jonathan M. Hall, assistant professor of media studies; Nicolás Orozco-Valdivia, curatorial intern and Pomona College Class of 2017; and Valorie Thomas, professor of English/Africana studies.

The curatorial committee invited seven previous Project Series artists: Christina Fernandez, Charles Gaines, Ken Gonzales-Day, Katie Grinnan, Soo Kim, Hirokazu Kosaka and Amanda Ross-Ho, to nominate two emerging or lesser-known artists whose work contributes to the contemporary art dialogue in Southern California. No other criteria were given, in order to encourage a broad and diverse pool of nominated artists. Through a combination of research, studio visits and intensive discussion, the committee selected the seven artists. Unified by this curatorial process, serendipitous connections emerged between the artists’ work: an interest in the archive and documentation, the use of storytelling and theatricality, the delights of obsessive drawing practices, examinations into troubling recent history, spiritual openness and exploration, and commitment to craftsmanship. Their work includes drawing, installation, photography, sculpture, social practice art, sound art and video.

With these artists, the exhibition will capture the dynamism of the Southern California art scene, while further extending the Project Series’ impact on the arts community. The exhibition will be accompanied by a publication, designed by Kimberly Varella of Content Object, contextualizing the art of the late 20th and early 21st century in Los Angeles through the lens of the Project Series. The book includes two new contextualizing essays by Geis and McGrew, and essays on each of the seven artists by Lisa Anne Auerbach, Terri Geis, Doug Harvey, Kathleen Howe, Rebecca McGrew, Nicolas Orozco-Valdivia, Glenn Phillips, Valorie Thomas and Sarah Wang. All artists will engage with students and elements of the curriculum in a variety of ways during the exhibition.
Created by Rebecca McGrew, Pomona College Museum of Art senior curator, the Project Series focuses on emerging and under-represented Southern California artists. Its intent is to bring to the Pomona College campus art that is experimental and that introduces new forms, techniques or concepts. The Project Series has enhanced the Museum's role as a laboratory for exploring innovative, cross-disciplinary collaborations and ideas and as a catalyst for new knowledge.

![Nikki Pressley, Abacus/seat, 2013, wood, found wood, string, nails, cushion, and fava beans. Plinth – 35.5 x 48 x 5 inches; chair/Abacus – 32 x 20 x 40 inches. Courtesy of the artist.](image)

**Programs**

**Saturday, Sept. 12, 4-5 p.m.**
Former Project Series artist Charles Gaines in conversation with “R.S.V.P. Los Angeles” artists Justin Cole and Nikki Pressley

**Monday, Sept. 28, 2-3 p.m.**
Talk by “R.S.V.P. Los Angeles” artist Wakana Kimura

**Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2:30-3:30 p.m.**
"R.S.V.P. Los Angeles" artist Naotaka Hiro in conversation with Glenn Phillips, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Collections, Getty Research Institute and "R.S.V.P Los Angeles" catalog essayist

**Thursday, Oct. 15, 7-8 p.m.**
“R.S.V.P. Los Angeles” artist Aydinaneth Ortiz in conversation with Josephine Bump ’76 and Curatorial Intern Nicolás Orozco-Valdivia (Pomona ’17)

**Thursday, Oct. 29, 5-11 p.m.**
“R.S.V.P. Los Angeles: The Project Series at Pomona” Book Release Party

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**Museum Information**

The Museum collects, preserves, exhibits and interprets works of art; and houses a substantial permanent collection as well as serving as a gallery of temporary exhibitions. Important holdings include the Kress Collection of 15th- and 16th-century Italian panel paintings; more than 5,000 examples of Pre-Columbian to 20th-century American Indian art and artifacts, including basketry, ceramics and beadwork; and a large collection of American and European prints, drawings and photographs, including works by Francisco de Goya, José Clemente Orozco, and Rico Lebrun.

**ADMISSION**
All exhibitions and programs are free of charge and open to the public.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

330 North College Avenue
Claremont, CA 91711

Tuesday through Sunday, 12-5 p.m., Closed Mondays

*Art After Hours*: Thursday, 5-11 p.m., Sept. 3 – Dec. 3, 2015

*Art After Hours* offers a variety of programming including live music concerts sponsored by KSPC 88.7 FM, lectures, panels, workshops, tours, film screenings, and performances in conjunction with Museum exhibitions.

For more information, please call 909.621.8283 or visit [www.pomona.edu/museum](http://www.pomona.edu/museum).

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Wakana Kimura, *One trifle-beset night, ’twas the moon, not I, that saw the pond lotus bloom*, 2015, watercolor, Sumi ink, marker, acrylic color, venial color on Washi paper (Daitoku roll, machine made in Fukui Prefecture, Japan, Hiromi Paper Inc. 98 x 308 inches total; four panels: 98 x 77 inches each. Courtesy of the artist.