

scottsdalearts scottsdale museum of contemporary art

news release

Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020

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Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art Brings Exhibition of Experimental Design to Phoenix



Reimagined textiles enter the interior in the form of 3D-woven bench (24" high x 40" long x 17.7" wide).

Fransje Gimbrère: "Standing Textiles," 2019. Photo: Ronald Smits.

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. – A new traveling exhibition, "Design Transfigured/Waste Reimagined," is making its way to the Valley from Feb. 1 – May 17, 2020. Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary

Art (SMoCA) will be the second institution to show these works since debuting at Maria & Alberto de la Cruz Art Gallery at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., in 2019.

“Design Transfigured/Waste Reimagined” is the first exhibition to recognize designers’ bold and inventive responses to the current state of our environment through designs that reimagine discarded materials and waste into handsome and useful products. The exhibition features 30 international designers and studios from Asia, Latin America and Europe.

“We love it when we notice significant trends or movements in both art and design,” said exhibition curators Ginger Gregg Duggan and Judith Hoos Fox of c²-curatorsquared in a joint statement. “Often, one precedes the other, but typically the artist approaches themes more conceptually and the designer must find a function or use for their interpretation. Interestingly, however, in the case of ‘Design Transfigured/Waste Reimagined,’ the designs are both conceptual approaches as well as potential and/or actual products ready for the market. In the face of climate change, the more creative minds behind solutions, the better.”

An exhibition like this provides audiences with new ways of thinking about design, the life of products and how everything becomes a form of refuse. Waste is overtaking natural resources, but these exhibiting designers consider it a resource to reclaim and radically transform into useful products. The question the designers are examining is: How can waste be turned back into something useful instead of making more garbage?

Sourced from polluted air, land and water; from the by-products of manufacturing, mining, agriculture and aquaculture; or from food and human waste, these products on display transfigure waste into building materials, home furnishings and fashion accessories.

“Working at the forefront of design, these labs and studios are making bold moves to rethink the life of a product and its material — from design to production to disposal,” explained Lauren R. O’Connell, SMoCA assistant curator. “By bringing this exhibition to Scottsdale, it allows us to open a dialogue between the international designers on view with the innovative designers and thinkers here in the Phoenix area.”

SMoCA is collaborating with the Center for Philosophical Technologies — a strategic initiative of Arizona State University and a global hub for critical and speculative research on philosophy, technology and design — on a series of programs in conjunction with the exhibition. The two public events will include international designers Jesper Eriksson (Sweden), Agne Kucerenkaite (the Netherlands), Wendy Plomp (the Netherlands), Kevin Rouff (United States/United Kingdom), Remco van de Craats (the Netherlands) and Kirstie van Noort (the Netherlands).

Additionally, presenting this exhibition at SMoCA allows the community to contribute and continue a conversation in multiple places. The Museum has previously traveled two of c²-curatorsquared’s exhibitions, beginning in 2007.

“Traveling an exhibition from another institution is one way to provide our audience with access to the new ideas and artworks, organized by curators whose research can take many years to develop into one exhibition,” O’Connell said. “In this case, Judy Hoos Fox and Ginger Gregg Duggan are curators whose cutting-edge perspective on design in our contemporary culture is exceptional. Exhibitions like ‘Design Transfigured/Waste Reimagined’ supports the mission of SMOCA to show contemporary art, design and architecture and engage those communities. Design exhibitions look at more than the object to reveal the process of design thinking and present cutting-edge ideas.”

Participating designers:

Kosuke Araki, Japan; Bentu, China; Oksana Bondar, United Kingdom; Dutch Invertuals, Netherlands; Edhv, Architects of identity, Netherlands; Simón Ballen Botero, Colombia/Netherlands; Jesper Eriksson, United Kingdom; Liselore Frowijn, Netherlands/Carmen Hijosa, Spain/United Kingdom; Fransje Gimbrère, Netherlands; Kodai Iwamoto, Japan; Charlotte Kidger, United Kingdom; Sinae Kim, Korea; Fernando Laposse, Mexico/United Kingdom; Majstudio, Netherlands; Malai, India; Christien Meindertsma, Netherlands; Kirstie van Noort, Netherlands; RED, United Kingdom; Sophie Rowley, Germany; James Shaw, United Kingdom; The Shellworks, United Kingdom; Laura Strambi, Italy; Studio Agne, Netherlands; Studio Formafantasma, Italy/Netherlands; Studio Nienke Hoogvliet, Netherlands; Studio Roosegaarde, Netherlands; Studio Swine, United Kingdom; Universidad del Istmo, Guatemala; Vij5/Studio/Mieke Meijer/Floris Hovers/Studio rENs, Netherlands; Dirk Vander Kooij, Netherlands

Organized by Maria & Alberto de la Cruz Art Gallery at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. Exhibition design and graphics by Dutch Intervals and Edhv Architects of Identity, Eindhoven, Netherlands. Curated by c2-curatorsquared, a partnership between Ginger Gregg Duggan and Judith Hoos Fox. Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art presentation organized by Lauren R. O’Connell, assistant curator.

This exhibition is supported by The Netherland-America Foundation (NAF), Creative Industries Fund NL and the Dutch Culture USA program by the Consulate General of the Netherlands in New York.



Related Programming

All events take place in SMOCA Lounge unless noted otherwise. Free events at SMOCA fill

quickly and are first come, first served; early arrival is encouraged. Visit SMoCA.org to RSVP and purchase tickets.

Design Reboot: An International Conversation on Design Rehabilitation

#SMoCAdesignReboot

SMoCA and the Center for Philosophical Technologies (CPT) at ASU present a series of public talks featuring six international designers included in the exhibition “Design Transfigured/Waste Reimagined” on view through May 17. SMoCA and CPT have invited designers Luis Paco Böeckelmann (German, lives in United Kingdom), Jesper Eriksson (Swedish/Finnish, lives in United Kingdom), Wendy Plomp (Dutch, lives in The Netherlands), Kevin Rouff (American/French, lives in United Kingdom) and Remco van de Craats (Dutch, lives in The Netherlands) to participate in these events.

The CPT at ASU is an ambitious platform for research creation that aims to bring philosophy, design and technology together at the intersections of academic, para-academic, non-academic ways of knowing. Collaborating with CPT to present these series of events allows a broad audience to be introduced to the vibrancy of international design, specifically from the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

These events will not only enlarge an understanding of environmentally centered design but will also allow the designers to form new connections in the southwest region of the United States. Below are two public engagements:

Waste Not: Sustainable Approaches to Design

Saturday, Feb. 15, 3 p.m.

Designers whose work is featured in “Design Transfigured/Waste Reimagined” discuss innovative approaches that address diminishing natural resources. Luis Paco Böeckelmann, Jesper Eriksson, Wendy Plomp, Kevin Rouff and Remco van de Craats join moderator Judith Hoos Fox, co-curator of the exhibition.

Alchemical Design: Reimagining Sustainability

Monday, Feb. 17, 6 p.m.

The Bridge, Design North, 2nd Floor, Arizona State University

Center for Philosophical Technologies (CPT) hosts a second discussion at Arizona State University with international designers from “Designed Transfigured/Waste Reimagined” and Jason Schupbach, Director of the School of Design, focusing on the scientific complexities of sustainable design. The roundtable will include CPT Director Adam Nocek, CPT Associate Director Stacey Moran, ASU School of Design Director Jason Schupbach and ASU Director of Desert Humanities Ronald Broglio.

History of Plastics

Thursday, April 16, 7 p.m.

Writer and former journalist Christopher Geoffrey McPherson presents the history of one of the most significant and contested materials of our time: plastic. A selection of mid-century dinnerware from SMOCA's collection will be on temporary display during the event.

SCOTTSDALE ARTS

Through its partnership with the City of Scottsdale, the nonprofit Scottsdale Arts (formerly known as Scottsdale Cultural Council) creates diverse, inspired arts experiences and educational opportunities that foster active, lifelong community engagement with the arts. Since its founding in 1987, Scottsdale Arts has grown into a regionally and nationally significant, multi-disciplinary arts organization offering an exceptional variety of programs through four acclaimed branches — Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art (SMoCA), Scottsdale Public Art and Scottsdale Arts Learning & Innovation — serving more than 600,000 participants annually. In conjunction with the City of Scottsdale, we also host more than 200,000 people annually on our campus through a robust rentals program.

SCOTTSDALE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

Founded in 1999, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art (SMoCA) explores the best of contemporary art, architecture and design. Global in its focus, the Museum is a unique and vital cultural resource for the Southwest, serving local audiences as well as visitors from the United States and abroad. Designed by award-winning architect Will Bruder, SMOCA's minimalist building (an ingenious renovation of a former movie theater) has four galleries for showcasing changing exhibitions and works from the Museum's collection, along with SMOCA Lounge, a living, functional art installation and space for community engagement. The Museum presents a wide variety of educational programs and special events for adults and families, including lectures, readings, performances, docent-led tours, workshops and classes. SMOCA also features an outdoor sculpture garden housing James Turrell's "Knight Rise," one of the renowned artist's public skyspaces, and "Scrim Wall," a monumental curtain of translucent glass panels by James Carpenter Design Associates. The Museum's retail store, Shop@SMoCA, offers classic design objects and furnishings, contemporary jewelry, art and architecture books, and imaginative gifts for all occasions.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art
7374 E. Second St., Scottsdale, Arizona 85251
www.SMoCA.org
480-874-4666
SMoCA@ScottsdaleArts.org

HOURS AND ADMISSION

Tuesday – Wednesday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Thursday, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Friday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Sunday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Closed Mondays and major holidays

Admission: \$10 adults, \$7 students, seniors (65+) and veterans; free for members and children under 15

Free every Thursday and every second Saturday of the month

MEDIA:

For digital images, download at [SmugMug](#). Password: Scottsdale7380!

For interviews, additional images or additional information, please contact:

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