

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 21, 2016

THE UNDERGROUND MUSEUM, IN COLLABORATION WITH
THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART, LOS ANGELES (MOCA),
PRESENTS *NON-FICTION*

March 2016–March 2017
at The Underground Museum
Press Previews and By Appointment Only: March 20–April 30, 2016
Public Opening: May 1, 2016



LOS ANGELES—The Underground Museum, in collaboration with The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, presents *Non-fiction*, an exhibition conceived by the late artist and The Underground Museum Co-Founder Noah Davis (1983–2015). *Non-fiction* features several pieces from MOCA's permanent collection, including works by Kara Walker, Henry Taylor, and Marion Palfi. Artists Theaster Gates, Robert Gober, David Hammons, Deana Lawson, and Kerry James Marshall have also lent work for the exhibition. *Non-fiction* will be on view for one year and will be accompanied by ongoing programs that will include a summer film series, artist talks, meditation sessions in The Underground Museum's Purple Garden, and more.

"I am so proud to shepherd Noah's vision. This show is from his well of exhibitions for the community. His spirit is still producing powerful work and inspiring us all. The Underground Museum is excited to open its doors again and share this special journey," remarks The Underground Museum Co-Founder Karon Davis.

Non-fiction, one of several exhibitions conceived of by Davis before his untimely passing in August 2015, pulls together works of art that investigate, either explicitly or implicitly, the culture of violence perpetrated on black citizens. Since the 2012 murder of Trayvon Martin, an unarmed teenager in Florida, the news has been awash with images and stories of the deaths of young black men, women, and children at the hands of law enforcement. This exhibition is designed to allow people to take a step away from the mass media's handling of these acts of brutality. How can artists help us to see and understand the legacy of racist violence? Can fictional works of art take on the same status as historical facts? The ongoing violence is real, but how we narrate that violence says a great deal about what we might be able to do to prevent it. *Non-fiction* promises to be an emotionally charged and complex exhibition, made possible by the integrity and experimental vision that fuels The Underground Museum.

"*Non-fiction* came together in the spirit of emotional honesty. Davis combined his deep love of his artist peers' work with his strong sense of social justice. The result promises to be a potent example of the critical knowledge that comes about through encounters with great art," remarks MOCA Chief Curator Helen Molesworth.

Located in the traditionally working-class neighborhood of Arlington Heights, The Underground Museum exists both as creative proposition—an artwork in and of itself—and as a physical space for exhibitions, events, dialogue, and artist collaborations. Created by the late artist Noah Davis and his wife, artist Karon Davis, The Underground Museum brings museum-quality art to an underserved African American and Latino neighborhood. In 2015, MOCA lent a multipart

video installation by the esteemed South African artist William Kentridge. This launched a collaboration that will continue over the next three years, as The Underground Museum mounts a series of exhibitions that realize Davis's curatorial proposals and draw heavily on works from MOCA's esteemed permanent collection of contemporary art.

Non-fiction is made possible with support from The Aileen Getty Foundation, Daniel Crown and Crown Family Philanthropies, and VIA Art Fund.

Image credit: Henry Taylor, *Warning shots not required*, 2011, acrylic, charcoal, and collage on canvas, 75 1/4 x 262 1/4 x 1 3/4 in. (191.14 x 666.12 x 4.45 cm), The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, purchased with funds provided by the Acquisition and Collection Committee

For more information and to receive news about programs, film screenings, and performances that will accompany the exhibition, please visit theunderground-museum.org.

THE UNDERGROUND MUSEUM

3508 W. Washington Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90018
323/989-9925

info@theunderground-museum.org

The Underground Museum is a non-profit dedicated to exhibiting world-class, museum-quality art for free to diverse communities. The Underground Museum serves low-to-moderate income neighborhoods through exhibitions, film screenings, workshops, a public garden, and wellness programs, with the hope that increasing the access to art will inspire, educate, and transform lives. The Underground Museum upholds the belief that art is an essential part of a vibrant, just, and healthy society. Admission to The Underground Museum is always free.

THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART, LOS ANGELES (MOCA)

About MOCA: Founded in 1979, MOCA's vision is to be the defining museum of contemporary art. In a relatively short period of time, MOCA has achieved astonishing growth with three Los Angeles locations of architectural renown; a world-class permanent collection of more than 6,800 objects, international in scope and among the finest in the world; hallmark education programs that are widely emulated; award-winning publications that present original scholarship; groundbreaking monographic, touring, and thematic exhibitions of international repute that survey the art of our time; and cutting-edge engagement with modes of new media production. MOCA is a not-for-profit institution that relies on a variety of funding sources for its activities.

More Information: For 24-hour information on current exhibitions, education programs, and special events, call 213/626-6222 or access MOCA online at moca.org.

MEDIA CONTACTS

THE UNDERGROUND MUSEUM

Karon Davis
Co-Founder and President
323/989-9925
info@theunderground-museum.org

MOCA

Eva Seta
Communications Manager
213/633-5322
eseta@moca.org