



THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

**THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART, LOS ANGELES (MOCA), PRESENTS
*LAUREN HALSEY: WE STILL HERE, THERE***

**March 4–September 3, 2018
MOCA Grand Avenue**



LOS ANGELES—The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (MOCA), presents *Lauren Halsey: we still here, there*, a site-specific installation work created at MOCA’s Grand Avenue location. This spring Los Angeles–based artist Lauren Halsey (b. 1987, Los Angeles, California) will take up residence at MOCA Grand Avenue, where she will build and regularly change an immersive space resembling a fantastical system of caves that viewers are invited to linger in and explore. This environment will serve as a visionary archive reflecting the diversity of everyday Black cultural experiences in South Central L.A., the artist’s home since childhood.

Halsey’s installation will incorporate an abundance of found objects such as incense, oils, tchotchkes, figurines, mix CDs, local newspaper clippings, and vernacular portraits, creating a vibrant record of a community facing rapid gentrification and development. At the same time, the work will serve as a speculative space, evoking imaginary futures for South Central through landscapes and rock carvings made by hand, miniature shrines, fountains, and sound installations. The environment will reflect Halsey’s deep investment in preserving and supporting her neighborhood as well as her exuberant engagement with diverse global references including the music of Parliament-Funkadelic, ancient Chinese Buddhist caves, and the habitable sculptures of French modernist André Bloc. At the heart of Halsey’s project is the idea that architecture can be a form of empowerment and social transformation for marginalized communities and a way to envision, in the artist’s words, “a freer, funkier, and more optimistic tomorrow.” The artist will work inside of the exhibition during select museum hours, enabling museum visitors to experience the installation as it evolves in real time.

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Lauren Halsey (b. 1987, Los Angeles) lives and works in Los Angeles. Her work has been exhibited at national and international institutions including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; The Studio Museum, Harlem; The Armory, Pasadena; Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles; and Mauve-Vienna, Vienna, Austria. She earned an MFA from Yale University (2014) and holds a BFA from California Institute of the Arts (2012). Lauren is a recipient of the Rema Hort Mann Foundation Los Angeles Emerging Artist Grant (2015). She recently received a Los Angeles Design Festival Edge Award (2017) and completed a residency at The Main Museum in Downtown Los Angeles (2017), and she is the 2017 recipient of the William H. Johnson Prize.

Lauren Halsey: we still here, there is organized by Lanka Tattersall, Assistant Curator, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles.

The project is made possible by The Director's Commissioning Fund.

Exhibitions at MOCA are supported by the MOCA Fund for Exhibitions with lead annual support provided by Sydney Holland, founder of the Sydney D. Holland Foundation. Generous funding is also provided by Judith and Alexander Angerman, Delta Air Lines, and Nathalie Marciano and Julie Miyoshi.

Image credit: Lauren Halsey, detail, *Kingdom Splurge (2.4.6.14)*, 2014, mixed media, 288 x 480 in., Yale University, New Haven

RELATED PROGRAMS

MEMBERS' OPENING: *LAUREN HALSEY: WE STILL HERE, THERE*

Saturday, March 3, 7–9pm

MOCA Grand Avenue

INFO 213/621-1794 or membership@moca.org

FREE for MOCA members; no reservations necessary

Please check moca.org for updates on related programs.

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 7,000 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.

Hours: MOCA Grand Avenue (located at 250 South Grand Avenue in Downtown Los Angeles) is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11am to 6pm; Thursday from 11am to 8pm; Saturday and Sunday from 11am to 5pm; and closed on Tuesday. The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA (located at 152 North Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012) has the same hours as MOCA Grand Avenue during exhibitions. Please call ahead or go to moca.org for the exhibition schedule for The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA. MOCA Pacific Design Center (located at 8687 Melrose Avenue, West Hollywood, CA 90069) is open Tuesday through Friday from 11am to 5pm; Saturday and Sunday from 11am to 6pm; and closed on Monday. The MOCA Store at MOCA Grand Avenue (located at 250 South Grand Avenue) is open Monday through Wednesday and Friday from 10:30am to 5:30pm; Thursday from 10:30am to 8:30pm; and Saturday and Sunday from 10:30am to 6:30pm.

Museum Admission: General admission is free for all MOCA members. General admission is also free for everyone at MOCA Grand Avenue and The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA on Thursdays from 5pm to 8pm, courtesy of Wells Fargo. General admission is always free at MOCA Pacific Design Center. General admission at MOCA Grand Avenue and The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA is \$15 for adults; \$8 for students with I.D.; \$10 for seniors (65+); and free for children under 12 and jurors with I.D.

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.

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