

MEDIA CONTACT:

Sarah Klooster
805.966.5373 x104
press@mcasantabarbara.org

For Immediate Release.

MCASB Continues Bloom Projects Exchange Series in Collaboration with Portland Museum of Modern Art

Exhibition: *Midori Hirose: Of The Unicorn (and the Sundowner Kids)*

Opening reception: Saturday, January 27, 2018, 6 - 8 pm

Exhibition on view: January 28 - June 3, 2018



Above: Midori Hirose, *Blob*, 2011, Clay, paint, magnet, electronic components, plinth, 10 in. x 12 in. x 12 in., Courtesy the Artist.

In collaboration with Portland Museum of Modern Art (PMOMA), Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara (MCASB) presents Midori Hirose's first solo museum exhibition, *Midori Hirose: Of The Unicorn (and the Sundowner Kids)*. This room-sized installation of newly-commissioned sculptures traces her explorations into the mythologies, historical accounts, ecologies, and communities of Santa Barbara, CA, which unfolded from a series of conversations and excursions with Santa Barbara residents over the course of Hirose's multiple visits to the area. Meetings with an anthropologist and ethnobiologist at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, a botanist, a fireman, a Chumash elder, a motel manager, and several artists, combined with Hirose's more abstract sensory impressions of the landscape, inform her conceptualization

of various objects in the exhibition. Together the work offers timely narratives about this city, touching on issues including immigration, indigenous reality, and climate change.

Hirose is particularly interested in engaging with the community in which her work will be shown. *Midori Hirose: Of the Unicorn (and the Sundowner Kids)* features an installation with four distinct sculptures, all of which are created through 3D printing. The process of 3D printing itself alludes to the relationship between the built (representing order) and the natural (representing chaos). Hirose sees her interactions with this dichotomy as "material storytelling," and her sculptures as dimensional illustrations of these investigations.

Hirose, a multidisciplinary artist based in Portland, OR, often creates projects that engage lesser-known personal and collective stories as points of departure for addressing broader social topics. Her simultaneously focused and open-ended inquiries into certain topics of interest are born out of a diverse range of encounters. These encounters reveal fundamentally significant, yet often overlooked aspects of a place or situation. Hirose refers to these as the "never not heres." For this exhibition she asks, "What exists in Santa Barbara that holds it up—makes it unique—but also is somehow camouflaged by the everyday? What are the magic qualities of this city that are never not here?"

Midori Hirose (b. 1973, Hood River, OR) has participated in exhibitions including The Portland2016 Biennial, Portland, OR; PICA TBA Festival, Portland, OR; Fylkingen - New Music and Intermedia Art, Stockholm, SE; and Samson Projects, Boston, MA; and her work has been featured in publications including *Three Artist Books*, Publication Studio, Portland, OR; *Studio Journal Knock*, Book Series Issue 3, Fukuoka, JP; and *Zehn Sense Forever*, Nova Contemporary Culture & Outscapes, *Rojo Magazine*, Rio de Janeiro, BR. Hirose lives and works in Portland, OR.

Midori Hirose: Of The Unicorn (and the Sundowner Kids) is co-organized by guest curator Brooke Kellaway, and Libby Werbel, director of PMOMA.

This exhibition is part of MCASB's Bloom Projects Exchange Series. The exhibition series takes place in the museum's Bloom Gallery, a space that for more than a decade has featured new commissions and experimental projects by regional, national, and international emerging or under-recognized artists. The series presents solo exhibitions focused on programmatic collaborations with small-to mid-sized "off-centered" art organizations in cities across the globe. While bringing increased visibility to vibrant yet less broadly known artistic contexts, the exhibitions generate dialogue on innovative and localized approaches to display, communication, publishing, and audience development. A focal point of the series is public programming that involves critical discussion amongst Santa Barbara artists and arts professionals on the necessity of new or expanded arts initiatives and considering various factors that influence how these initiatives emerge and endure, notably in regions outside of major artistic centers, as in Santa Barbara.

The winter-spring 2018 Bloom Projects Exchange Series exhibition features a collaboration with Portland Museum of Modern Art (PMOMA), an alternative art space in Portland, OR, located within the stairwell and basement of Mississippi Records. PMOMA was founded by Libby Werbel in response to the lack of major contemporary and modern art institutions within a growing metropolis.

Accompanying the exhibition is a robust season of programming, including the below events:

In Conversation: Curators Brooke Kellaway and Libby Werbel

Thursday, January 25, 6 - 7 pm

Curated Cocktails

Thursdays, February 1, March 1, April 5, and May 3, 7 - 9 pm

Third Thursday Studios

Thursdays, February 15, March 15, April 19, May 17, 6 - 8 pm

More information and additional events can be found at mcasantabarbara.org/events.

###

About Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara

Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara (MCASB) is a non-profit, non-collecting museum dedicated to the exhibition, education, and cultivation of the art of our time. Formerly Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum (CAF), MCASB is the premier venue for contemporary art between Los Angeles and San Francisco. MCASB is located at the Paseo Nuevo Shopping Center Upper Arts Terrace in downtown Santa Barbara, CA. With the opening of the MCASB Satellite @ Hotel Indigo Santa Barbara in February of 2012, MCASB becomes one museum with two locations. Located in the Hotel Indigo Santa Barbara at 121 State Street, the MCASB Satellite space features yearlong exhibitions of stimulating contemporary artworks.