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For Immediate Release.

MCASB Debuts Successful Cecily Brown Exhibition on the West Coast

Exhibition: *Cecily Brown: Rehearsal*

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

Exhibition on view: January 28 - June 3, 2018



Above: Cecily Brown, *Strolling Actresses (After Hogarth)*, 2015, Pastel on paper, 51 1/2 x 79 inches, Courtesy of the artist, Photo: Genevieve Hanson.

Opening January 28, 2018, *Cecily Brown: Rehearsal*, curated by Claire Gilman, Chief Curator at The Drawing Center, brings more than 70 of Brown's drawings to MCASB for her West Coast debut. Arranged thematically, this exhibition is the first to focus exclusively on the artist's drawings, which foreground her iterative reworking of motifs from a wide-ranging arsenal of source material, including prints by

eighteenth-century draftsman William Hogarth, pages from animal clip-art books, and the cover of Jimi Hendrix's 1968 album *Electric Ladyland*. These drawings are not studies for her widely-known paintings but rather a distinct form of aesthetic inquiry, one that isolates the investigatory impulse that is inherent in Brown's work.

The title of the show, *Rehearsal*, refers to the Old French word *rehercier*, which originally meant to go over something again with the aim of more fully understanding it. The notion that this repetitive action was geared toward a culminating performance was a later conceit that has obscured the original definition of the word as valuing inquiry in its own right.

In keeping with the original definition of *rehercier*, what we witness in Brown's sketches is the artist's desire to visualize and respond to the images that attract and confound her. Indeed, Brown has said that learning to draw is teaching yourself how to see. Painstaking and obsessive in their efforts to work and rework either an entire scene or the slightest of gestures—a turn of a lion's head, the arch of a boy's torso—Brown's drawings take the act of looking as their very subject.

Cecily Brown was born in London in 1969 and studied painting at the Slade School of Art before relocating to New York, where she currently resides. Solo exhibitions of Brown's work have been mounted by Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester, UK; Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Torino, Italy; GEM, Museum of Contemporary Art, Den Haag, The Netherlands; Kestnengesellschaft, Hanover, Germany; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Des Moines Art Center, Iowa; Modern Art Oxford, UK; Kunsthalle Mannheim, Germany; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid; Museum of Contemporary Art (MACRO), Rome; and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C. She has also been included in group exhibitions at Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Germany; Pinchuk Art Centre, Kiev; and Parasol Unit, London. Brown's work is represented in numerous collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Morgan Library and Museum, New York; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Rubell Family Collection, Miami; and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, where she was included in the 2004 biennial exhibition.

Cecily Brown: Rehearsal is organized by Claire Gilman, Chief Curator, The Drawing Center, NY.

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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.