



Media Contact: Leslie LaSala, Head of Marketing and Communications

19 Newtown Turnpike, Westport CT

leslie@mocawestport.org; 203/222-7070

mocawestport.org

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MoCA WESTPORT'S FALL EXHIBITION, *WORLD PEACE*, EXAMINES OUR POLITICAL AND SOCIAL LIVES IN TODAY'S DIVIDED WORLD



Attached Images (L to R above, and attached):

- 1) Nicholas Galanin, *Things Are Looking Native, Native's Looking Whiter*, 2012 giclée, 34 x 25 inches (86.4 x 63.5 cm), Courtesy the artist and Peter Blum Gallery, New York. Photography by Jason Wyche.
- 2) Huma Bhabha, *Untitled*, 2014, Ink and collage on C-print Framed Dimensions: 86 1/8 x 55 1/8 x 2 inches (218.8 x 140 x 5.1 cm). Image Dimensions: 80 x 50 inches (203.2 x 127 cm). Courtesy of the artist and Salon 94, New York, NY. © Huma Bhabha.
- 3) Jennifer Bolande, *Image Tomb (with skeletons)*, 2014, Newspapers, pigment print, vitrine, wood 43h x 13w x 13d inches, courtesy of Magenta Plains Gallery and the artist.
- 4) Marilyn Minter, *Resist Flag*, 2017, Nylon and polyester poplin, hand appliqué, 144 by 96 inches. Courtesy of the artist and Salon 94, NY. © Marilyn Minter.
- 5) Julia Wachtel, *Target*, 2017, Oil and acrylic ink on canvas, 60 x 76 inches, 152.4 x 193 cm. Courtesy of the artist.
- 6) *World Peace* exhibition logo (attached only)

[Westport, CT, September 16, 2020]: MoCA Westport (formerly the Westport Arts Center) is pleased to present its Fall exhibition *World Peace*, on view to the public from October 8, 2020 – January 17, 2021.

The opening reception will take place on Wednesday, October 7 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., open to the public starting Thursday, October 8 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Curated to appear together for the first time, the works in *World Peace* reflect the culture of identity, and the divided and fractured political climate of America's past and present. This timely and compelling multi-media exhibition contains photography, sculpture, video, site-specific installations, works on paper and protest art that address the culture of American politics. The group show features both local and world-renowned artists.

Showcased artists include Enrico Baj, Huma Bhabha, Nayland Blake, Jennifer Bolande, Robert Buck, Alexander Calder, Class Action Collective, Renee Cox, Catharine Czudej, Jessica Diamond, Marcel Dzama, Naiad Einsel, Mark Flood, Richard Frank, Nicholas Galanin, Richard Hamilton, Spencer Heyfron, Jonathan Horowitz, Corita Kent, Glenn Ligon, Marilyn Minter, Cady Noland, Spencer Platt, Wendy Red Star, Tabor Robak, Taryn Simon, Devin Troy Strother, Tracy Sugarman, Frank Thiel, Hank Willis Thomas, Bill Traylor and Julia Wachtel.

MoCA Westport Executive Director Ruth Mannes and Head of Exhibitions Liz Leggett collaborated with Todd von Ammon, art dealer, independent curator and director of von ammon co., in Washington, D.C. to curate the exhibition.

The exhibition showcases how art has served as a form of social activism for generations. Particularly in the past four years, art has played an integral role in protests surrounding social injustice, #MeToo, climate change, and gun violence. In an unprecedented time of polarization, *World Peace* examines the myriad political issues facing our society. The impetus for the exhibition came before the COVID-19 pandemic and racial justice protests, but these events have compounded our volatile atmosphere. As Americans struggle to find common ground, *World Peace* generates examination, dialogue, and change.

World Peace follows the historical use of visual images to shape current events, featuring works from different decades and mediums. It explores complex intersections between aspects of identity, including gender, race, and class. The thought-provoking collection includes commentary on contemporary media culture, the criminal justice system, and the relationship between science and religion.

"That's the strange and beautiful thing about the art world. It's not mass communication. If you want mass communication, then you are in the wrong field."

- Danh Vo

“While contemporary art has intrinsic limitations on its efficacy in shaping social life and public policy, it does play an important role in shaping the narrative post facto. Even in this role it rarely succeeds. *World Peace* is an exhibition about political and social life in the United States, and will serve as one portion of historical, social and ethical data for which contemporary art will be evaluated in later historical epochs,” commented von Ammon.

“Contemporary art and politics rarely—if ever—intersect: while the aesthetic and the political tend to travel in adjacent lanes, it’s uncommon that an artwork will cause a political event. The political art object is one of absorption: in order to understand an ideology at a heightened level, culture relies on the artist to sublimate political events into forms that connect with the audience more deeply and give shape to lived time,” he added.

At the end of the year 2020, the contemporary artist has much to digest and decode—too much to contain in a room full of objects. *World Peace* is a vignette of artworks that have absorbed the political realism of the era during which they were made. Relying heavily on the Pictures Generation and its legacy, *World Peace* includes artists who freely appropriate the forms and content of the last fifty years of American social life—artists who employ forms such as the newspaper, the television, the internet, and the outdoor advertisement to most clearly articulate the thrill, paranoia and dread of the United States, its flawed legacy, and life within capitalist realism.

MoCA Westport invites the public to participate with the hashtags #WorldPeace and #MoCAWorldPeace on social media.

All media inquiries can be directed to leslie@mocawestport.org.

About MoCA Westport

World Peace will mark the third exhibition at the new MoCA Westport location. MoCA Westport is a non-profit visual and performing arts organization that has been a cornerstone of the Westport, Connecticut, community for over 50 years. In 2019, MoCA Westport underwent a significant expansion in order to bring extensive programming to the local community and greater New York and New England regions.

In addition, a unique education program, The Academy at MoCA Westport, provides small-group POD instruction to support the hybrid model for children ages 6-11 (1st through 5th

grade) at the Museum with certified academic instructors and art teachers to offer: small group tutoring, homework assistance, distance learning support, and a robust cultural arts experience. Our state of the art facility boasts a HEPA air-filtration circulation system and our classrooms are spacious, light-filled, and staffed with experienced professionals to support your child and all of their needs. Offering two- and three-day options, our PODs will have a 6 to 2-staff ratio, which allows for concentrated academic assistance as well as skilled art instruction. Additionally, The Academy offers a range of youth and adult art classes with projects tied to MoCA Westport exhibitions.

MoCA Westport's two galleries are dedicated to exhibiting contemporary art by globally renowned artists and locally impactful artists alike.

MoCA Westport is thankful for the dedication of its generous donors and sponsors, including the Katherine and Howard Aibel Foundation; Aitoro Appliances, Artur and Heida Hermanns Holde Foundation, Inc.; Beechwood Arts and Innovation; Cohen & Wolf PC; Delamar Southport; Design Within Reach; Fairfield County Bank; 4th Row Films; First County Bank Foundation; Goldman Sachs; Halloran Sage; The Hofstetter Baron Group of Wells Fargo Advisors; Moffly Media; Newman's Own; Daniel Edward Offutt, III; Peter Fasano Textiles; SRI Fine Art Services; Tauck Ritzau Innovative Philanthropy; Wealthspire Advisors; Wiggin and Dana LLP; WSHU Public Radio Group. MoCA Westport operates with the support of the Department of Economic and Community Development, Connecticut Office of the Arts, which also receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. MoCA Westport operates with the support of the Department of Economic and Community Development, Connecticut Office of the Arts, which also receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

Fall 2020 Hours: Thursday 4-6pm | Friday 4-6pm | Saturday 12-4 pm | Sunday 12-4pm

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