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Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Trenton Doyle Hancock: The Re-Evolving Door to the Moundverse* explores the Houston-based artist's fantastical visual narratives.**



Trenton Doyle Hancock, *The Legend Attempts to Put Out his Own Fire of Life*, 2003, Mixed media on canvas, 78 x 78 in. © Trenton Doyle Hancock. Courtesy James Cohan, New York.

November 7, 2017 (St. Louis, MO) - The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) presents an exhibition of paintings, drawings, and mixed-media sculpture by Trenton Doyle Hancock, featuring works made over the last three decades. *Trenton Doyle Hancock: The Re-Evolving Door to the Moundverse* features recurring superheroes and diabolical villains, an ever-evolving array of cosmic mythologies, and outrageous conflicts of biblical and operatic proportions. Hancock's *Good Vegan Progression #5*, originally constructed as a backdrop for Ballet Austin, will be displayed on CAM's 60 foot-long Project Wall. *Trenton Doyle Hancock: The Re-Evolving Door to the Moundverse* will be on view at CAM January 19 through April 22, 2018.

Hancock's seemingly wild, even absurd, imagery and seriocomic narratives speak to perpetual American dilemmas of race, class, identity, and social justice. Indeed, the "re-evolving door" of Hancock's exhibition title makes reference to the consistent re-emergence, re-integration, and re-interpretation of many of the artist's characters and storylines, but also of the persistent re-enactments of American race history from generation to generation.

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Hours
10-5 Wed
10-8 Thu & Fri
10-5 Sat & Sun

CAM is free. Visit often!

Reflecting such narrative-based predecessors as Hieronymus Bosch, Max Ernst, Henry Darger, Philip Guston, and R. Crumb, Hancock also shares with these artists a baroque sensibility in patterns, design, and densely layered imagery. Maintaining a balance between illustration and abstraction, Hancock's compositions express his early attraction to abstract expressionism as well as a generation of underground comics—his canvases filled with intuitive gestures combined with determined mark and pattern making and vibrant color schemes. Pattern defines character and theme, such as with his recurring black-and-white striped figures, who convey a striped human condition through notions of opposition—good and bad, protagonist and villain. Among the representative characters on view in the exhibition are Torpedo Boy, a hapless superhero and alter-ego Hancock first imagined when he was a child; the Mounds, gentle, part-Neanderthal, part-plant creatures; the evil, tofu-loving, colorblind Vegans who torment the Mounds; and Legend, a tree-human mutant, the first living Mound and tragic victim of the Vegans.



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Through swirling patterns and insistent mark-making, through text and found objects emerging onto the canvas, Hancock tells his exuberant, recurring fever dreams—comic gestures as visually and dramatically entertaining as they are deeply penetrating investigations into the fabric of America.

Trenton Doyle Hancock (b. 1974 Oklahoma City; lives and works in Houston) was featured in the 2000 and 2002 Whitney Biennial exhibitions, becoming one of the youngest artists in history to participate in this prestigious survey. His work has been the subject of one-person exhibitions at the University of South Florida Contemporary Art Museum, Tampa; Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah and Atlanta; Weatherspoon Museum, Greensboro; Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston; Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth; Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami; Institute for Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; Olympic Sculpture Park at the Seattle Art Museum; Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh; and Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Hancock's work is in the permanent collections of several prestigious museums, including the Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Fort Worth; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Studio Museum in Harlem, New York; Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco; Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, The Netherlands; and Il Museo di Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Trento, Italy. Hancock earned his BFA from Texas A&M University, Commerce, and his MFA from the Tyler School of Art at Temple University, Philadelphia.

Trenton Doyle Hancock: The Re-Evolving Door to the Moundverse is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Wassan Al-Khudhairi, Chief Curator.

The exhibition is generously supported by James Cohan Gallery, New York.

Related Events

Press & Patron Preview

Friday, January 19, 10:00 am

Join CAM curators for an exclusive introduction to the exhibitions.

RSVP to Eddie Silva at

314.535.0770 x311.

Opening Night

Friday, January 19

Member Preview

6:00 pm

Public Reception

7:00–9:00 pm

Artist Talk: Trenton Doyle Hancock

Saturday, January 20, 11:00 am

About the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis

The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) presents, supports, and celebrates the art of our time. It is the premier museum in St. Louis dedicated to contemporary art. Focused on a dynamic array of changing exhibitions, CAM provides a thought-provoking program that reflects and contributes to the global cultural landscape. Through the diverse perspectives offered in its exhibitions, public programs, and educational initiatives, CAM actively engages a range of audiences to challenge their perceptions. It is a site for discovery, a gathering place in which to experience and enjoy contemporary visual culture. CAM is located in the Grand Center Arts District.



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