



ELI AND EDYTHE **BROAD ART MUSEUM** MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

September 11, 2015

Major Solo Museum Exhibition for Andrew Sendor, *Paintings, Drawings, and a Film*, opens at The Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University This Fall.

Andrew Sendor will create new paintings shown in conjunction with his film *FENOMENO*, opening November 7 at the Broad MSU.

East Lansing, MI – November 7, 2015. The Broad MSU is proud to present a major solo museum exhibition by Andrew Sendor, *Paintings, Drawings, and a Film*. Sendor's work is characterized by a meticulous draughtsmanship that serves to illuminate his ongoing engagement with the interrelation of photorealism and the evolution of the moving image. The artist's film work further extends the intricate web of psychologically charged narratives, persona and anachronistic space developed in his drawings and paintings. For his exhibition at the Broad MSU, Sendor will debut new paintings and drawings alongside a selection of works extending from "*Delicates*," the artist's recent solo exhibition at Sperone Westwater in New York, including *FENOMENO*, the artist's first film.

The paintings, drawings and film introduce the viewer to a cast of recurring, eccentric characters. Rather than representing archetypes, Sendor's cosmology is populated by characters with complex backstories, including the mercurial dendrochronologist Boris Flumzy, his spiritual advisor Miss Ecstasy (alias Seda Mercedes), and Fenomeno, a cross-dressing strongman and prolific violinist who is prone to emotional rapture. The exhibition also features a series of new works depicting scenes from a fictive documentary following Plumita Lunes Nuñez, an orphan undertaking an ancient Christian pilgrimage in an existential pursuit to find her long-lost parents.

Sendor's paintings - executed in a reduced black, white and gray palette - serve as artifacts of arrested movement that evoke mysticism, the occult and the absurd. While Sendor has an educated consciousness of the history of painting, particularly studying artists such as Caravaggio, Vermeer and Goya, he strategically employs pictorial devices influenced by the circumstances of image consumption of today, deviating from traditional painting vernacular.

"The Broad MSU is honored to host this extraordinary exhibition," said Caitlín Doherty, Curator and Deputy Director of Curatorial Affairs. "Andrew has an extraordinary ability to craft a complex narrative, using a variety of media and recurring characters, that is both theatrical and captivating. We are so pleased the Broad MSU will take part in the continuation of this chronicle."

FENOMENO is a 13-minute film documenting an exchange of altruistic rituals between Boris Flumzy and Fenomeno. Sendor utilizes cutaway shots that operate as portals into the psyches of the characters, addressing their fears, anxieties, memories, and dreams. The film culminates in a spiritual cleansing ceremony in which Flumzy and his colleagues burn the titular protagonist in effigy inside a river canyon while Fenomeno purges painful fragments of his id in traumatic flashback scenes. *FENOMENO* sets Sendor's elusive cast in motion, broadening the fantasy that threads through this expanding body of work.

The Broad MSU will be providing copies for purchase of *Andrew Sendor*, the exhibition catalog from *Delicates* shown at Sperone Westwater in 2015, with an accompanying essay written by the late Broad MSU Founding Director, Michael Rush.

Andrew Sendor: Paintings, Drawings, and a Film is curated by Caitlín Doherty, Curator and Deputy Director of Curatorial Affairs, Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University.

Related Programming

Andrew Sendor will be present for an artist lecture and reception at the Broad MSU on February 18, 2016. The artist will conduct educational outreach with Michigan State University students on February 19, 2016. Select graduate students will be chosen to participate in a collaborative writing residency to develop their own writing practice through investigation of Andrew Sendor's work. They will be encouraged to think about the conceptual space of the museum and art work in an exhibition space, and to facilitate connections between visual and verbal media in the hopes of expanding on Residents' already existing writing practice.

About Andrew Sendor

Born in 1977, Sendor currently lives and works in New York City. He has presented solo gallery exhibitions in New York, Los Angeles, and Copenhagen. His works have been included in numerous museum exhibitions, including the Funen Art Museum, Odense, Denmark; Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art, Peekskill, New York; Knoxville Museum of Art, Knoxville, Tennessee; Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO; and the ARKEN Museum of Art, Ishøj, Denmark. In 2014, Sendor mounted a solo exhibition in conjunction with his residency at The Wright Museum, Beloit College. His works are in private and public collections worldwide. Andrew Sendor is represented by Sperone Westwater.

About Caitlín Doherty

Caitlín Doherty was appointed Curator and Deputy Director of Curatorial Affairs at Broad MSU in Spring 2015. A respected international curator, scholar, and director, Doherty has engaged with artists, students, and members of local communities across the globe.

From 2012 – 2015, she served as Exhibitions and Speaker Curator at Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar (VCUQatar), where she organized major exhibitions of international contemporary art and design, including *Confluence: Photographic-based work from the contemporary Middle East* (2014); *The Depths of Hope* (2014), by Egyptian-Sudanese artist Fathi Hassan; *Equilibrium* (2012), by Irish sculptor John O'Connor; and *The UP Factory* (2012), an interdisciplinary exhibition by Amsterdam-based international design company DROOG. Doherty also curated VCUQatar's *Crossing Boundaries Lecture Series*, featuring renowned contemporary artists, designers, and leaders within the artistic community including Ellen Lupton, Joachim Sauter, Francesco Bonami, Shirin Neshat, Marina Abramović, and Richard Serra.

From 2006 – 2008 Doherty worked as Director of Lismore Castle Arts, one of Ireland's leading contemporary art galleries, where she oversaw exhibitions featuring artists such as Michael Craig-Martin, Matthew Barney, Richard Long, and Natalie Djurberg. She taught Art History, Design History and Museum and Gallery Studies at Waterford Institute of Technology from 2008 – 2010. In Ireland, Doherty also directed the interdisciplinary arts and cultural initiative *Artswave*, and acted as Visual Arts Coordinator for Garter Lane Arts Centre in Waterford. She has published and lectured on contemporary art and museum practice, and holds degrees in Art History and Museum and Gallery Studies from The University of Edinburgh and The University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University

Opened on November 10, 2012, the dynamic 46,000-square-foot museum serves as both a teaching institution and a cultural hub for East Lansing and the region. In keeping with MSU's commitment to applying knowledge to benefit society and further the global common good, the Broad MSU's program of original and traveling exhibitions; initiatives with living artists; performances; and educational offerings for students, faculty, and the community make the museum a center for questioning and understanding the modern world. With a collection containing 7,500 objects from the Greek and Roman periods through the Renaissance and on to the Modern, the Broad MSU is uniquely able to contextualize the wide range of contemporary art practices within a firm historical context. The museum is named in honor of Eli and Edythe Broad, longtime supporters of the university who provided the lead gift of \$28 million. For more information, visit www.broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Michigan State University

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