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**The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston's Teen Council is pleased to present work by Houston area teens.**

*Perspectives 181: Human Nature*

Opening Reception

Thursday, February 28, 6:30-9PM



Claire Dorfman, *Bloom*, 2012. Digital print. 33 1/2 x 20 3/4 inches. Courtesy the artist.

HOUSTON, TX (February 28, 2013)—The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston's Teen Council is pleased to present *Perspectives 181: Human Nature*, a group exhibition featuring work by Houston area teen artists. The exhibition explores conceptions of humanity: what it is to be human or inhuman. The exhibition features work by 49 teens in a variety of media ranging from photography to video and sculpture.

*Human Nature* is the 8th biennial youth art exhibition organized by the CAMH's Teen Council. Drawing from an open call, the Teen Council received over 300 submissions responding to the

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questions: Is there a universal human experience? In order to explore human nature, must we examine our base animal instincts? Or does that which makes us human originate from a higher order?

Says Jamal Cyrus, Education Associate at CAMH, "From ideas about the material connection between mankind and nature to those of body image, consumerism, and social control, the artists featured in *Perspectives 181: Human Nature* take aim at the show's theme from a variety of perspectives and stances."

Photography figures prominently in this year's exhibition. Clinton Elliott's *Untitled* is a series of ten 5 x 7 inch photographs of portraits of people. In each of the photographs, however, the subject's face has been obscured with objects ranging from banana peels to fruit loops and Christmas decorations. Cory Jo's black-and-white image *Truth* shows a young racer, completely covered in racing jumpsuit and helmet, reading the obituaries. Many of the artists fuse human and nature together such as in Ashley Lawhorn's *Redwoods* digital photograph that shows a female figure with the head of a blue jay wearing a dress and leaning against a redwood tree. Zoie Brown's sculpture *Treefingers* depicts human fingers growing out of tree branches.

*Human Nature* is a meditation on human nature—its appearance and character—from the perspective of those who will shape the next iteration of humanity. The exhibition reminds us that where there is dark, there is also light, and it is this dualism that makes us human.

*Human Nature* features work by: Lynne Addison, Ronan Allencherril, Alex Ambriz, Ashlin Arnold, Adriel Barrios-Anderson, Daisy Betancourt, Kate Bomar, Chantal Bondoc, Rachel Bride, Zoie Brown, Emily Camp, Evelyn Cauley, Kassi Choate, Brittany Keil Craig, Glenn Grace Davis, Claire Dorfman, Stacie Dudley, Adam Elkhadem, Clinton Elliot, Felisha Falcon, Andrew Flanders, Melinda Flores, Hazel Fricke, Christina Garcia, Kathy Hernandez, Kendall Hertenberger, Will Insul, Miranda Jankovic, Cory Jo, James Kerley, Ashley Lawhorn, Chaing Leong, David Loera, Javier Mata, Katie Miller, Madison Morgan-Rawlings, Eva Nip, Alyssa Oliver, Caitlin Rhoades, Christina Rodriguez, Patricia Rodriguez, Karla Serrato, Judy Solomos, Dana Suleymanova, Morgan Tao, Sidney Tennant, Kameron White, Colin Yeates, Patrick Zapien.

*Perspectives 181: Human Nature* is organized by the Museum's Teen Council and guest juror Rachel Cook, Assistant Curator, DiverseWorks, Houston.

#### **ABOUT CAMH'S TEEN COUNCIL**

The CAMH Teen Council is a group of motivated young people (ages 15-19) employed by the Museum, who are committed to bringing the art of their time to their peers. They meet regularly to explore the arts and create youth-oriented programming and events. Every other year, the Teen Council organizes a *Perspectives* exhibition in the Zilkha Gallery featuring new work by young, Houston area artists. The Teen Council selects the theme, title, and guest juror, and helps with the design, installation, printed exhibition catalogue, and programming.

#### **ABOUT EXHIBITION JUROR**

Rachel Cook is a curator and writer. Recent curatorial projects include *Undetectable* (Visual AIDS, La Mama Galleria, NYC), *Not-Not-Not Images-Objects* (Meulensteen Gallery, NYC), and *Three Evidentiary Claims* (CCS Bard, Annandale-on-Hudson). She has previously worked for DOCUMENTA (13)'s publication team and most recently as a summer fellow for the International Studio & Curatorial Program in New York. Cook is a Houston native and HSPVA graduate. She holds a MA from the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College and a BFA from the San Francisco Art Institute. Currently, she is the Assistant Curator at DiverseWorks.

## **PUBLICATION**

*Perspectives 181: Human Nature* is accompanied by an illustrated, small-format Perspectives publication that includes an introduction by guest juror Rachel Cook. The thirteen-page color catalogue contains images of the installation and individual work and a checklist of featured works. It will be available April 2013.

## **PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

**The Teen Council has organized several programs in conjunction with the exhibition. All events are free and open to the public and take place at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston unless otherwise noted. For complete listings and current information, please check [www.camh.org](http://www.camh.org).**

### Opening Reception: *Perspectives 181: Human Nature*

Thursday, February 28, 6:30-9PM

Join us for the opening reception of *Human Nature*. Jamal Cyrus, Education Associate, will lead a gallery walk-through of the group exhibition beginning at 6:30PM. Zeapod Cupcakes will be onsite serving sweet treats (cash or credit card accepted).

### Poetry Reading: *Students on a Soapbox*

Thursday, March 7, 6:30-8PM

Join us for a poetry reading by up-and-coming poets from the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts and School of the Woods. The program features Poetry Slam-influenced performances as well as more traditional styles of poetry recitation. The poets from School of the Woods are part of an experimental student-taught class called "Art of Soapboxing" that explores inventive self-expression. All ages are welcome. Please note: Anyone wearing all black and a beret receives a free hug. The reading will take place in CAMH's Cullen Education Resource Room, located in the lower level of the Museum.

*Students on a Soapbox is held in partnership with Octopus Ink, the new literary magazine for Houston's High School for the Performing and Visual Arts.*

### Listening Party

Thursday, March 28, 6:30-8PM

Go on a music journey led by Teen Council member Phillip Kieval. With music interests ranging from fusion jazz to ambient sound, Kieval will play some records and discuss the history behind the music.

### Reading Group

Saturday, May 4, 1-3PM

Saturday, May 11, 1-3PM

Get together with CAMH's Teen Council to discuss contemporary essays, short fiction, and poems. Reading assignments will be available in advance at the Museum front desk and online.

### Performance: Teen Artists

Saturday, April 20, 2-5PM

Join us for an afternoon of performances by teen artists from Houston's High School for the Performing and Visual Arts as well as other Houston area schools. Held in CAMH's Cullen Education Resource Room, located in the lower level of the Museum.

### Puppet Night

Thursday, May 23, 6:30-8PM

Join us for a puppet show by Paedarchy Puppets, a collective of young Houstonian visual artists, writers, and musicians who gather together to make puppet shows. Paedarchy, which literally means “ruled by the children,” is a student group with members between the ages of 15 and 20. The show will examine humans as storytellers. All ages welcome.

### **EXHIBITION SUPPORT**

*The Perspectives Series* is made possible by a major grant from Fayez Sarofim and by donors to the Museum’s *Perspectives Fund*: Allison and David Ayers, Bright Star Productions Inc., The Brown Foundation, Inc., Dillon Kyle Architecture, Heidi and David Gerger, Kerry Inman and Denby Auble, Mady and Ken Kades, Karol Kreymer and Robert J. Card, M.D., Poppi Massey, Leslie and Shannon Sasser in Honor of Lynn Herbert, Andrew Schirrmeister III, William F. Stern, Martha Claire Tompkins, and 20K Group, LLC.

### **EDUCATION SUPPORT**

The Museum receives support for its education programs from: Anonymous, Dillon Kyle Architecture, Louise D. Jamail, Mr. and Mrs. I.H. Kempner III, Kinder Morgan Foundation, Robert and Pearl Wallis Knox Foundation, Leticia Loya, Elisabeth McCabe, M.D. Anderson Foundation, Marian and Speros Martel Foundation Endowment, Andrew R. McFarland, Mark and Mary Ann Miller, Nordstrom, Inc., Texas Commission on the Arts, Texas Women for the Arts, Ms. Louisa Stude Sarofim, and Elizabeth Satel Young.

Teen Council is supported by Ms. Louisa Stude Sarofim, Texas Women for the Arts, and Texas Commission on the Arts.

### **GENERAL SUPPORT**

Funding for the Museum’s operations through the Fund for the Future is made possible by generous grants from Chinhui Juhn and Eddie Allen, Anonymous, Jereann Chaney, Sara Dodd-Spickelmier and Keith Spickelmier, Jo and Jim Furr, Barbara and Michael Gamson, Brenda and William Goldberg, Marley Lott, Leticia Loya and Fayez Sarofim.

CAMH’s operations and programs are made possible through the generosity of the Museum’s trustees, patrons, members, and donors. The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston receives partial operating support from the Houston Endowment, the City of Houston through the Houston Museum District Association, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Texas Commission on the Arts, and The Wortham Foundation, Inc. CAMH also thanks its artist benefactors for their support including Ricci Albenda, Anonymous, McArthur Binion, Brendan Cass, Mel Chin, Leonardo Drew, Tim Gardner, Robert Gober, Wayne Gonzales, Oliver Herring, Jim Hodges, Michael Joo, Kurt Kauper, Jon Kessler, Terence Koh, Sean Landers, Zoe Leonard, Marilyn Minter, Donald Moffett, Ernesto Neto, Roxy Paine, Laurie Simmons, Josh Smith, Marc Swanson, and William Wegman.

United is the official airline of the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston.

### **CAMH MISSION**

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is a leading destination to experience innovative art. CAMH actively encourages public engagement with its exhibitions through its educational programs, publications, and online presence.

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### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is located at 5216 Montrose Boulevard, at the corner of Montrose and Bissonnet, in the heart of Houston’s Museum District. Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 10AM-7PM, Thursday 10AM-9PM, Saturday 10AM-6PM, and Sunday 12PM-6PM. Admission is always free. For more information, visit [www.camh.org](http://www.camh.org) or call 713 284 8250.