

PRESS RELEASE

#PaulRamírezJonas
#PublicTrustHTX

Contemporary Arts Museum Houston

EXHIBITION OPENING ATLAS, PLURAL, MONUMENTAL

April 29–August 6, 2017

OPENING RECEPTION:
Atlas, Plural, Monumental
Friday, April 28, 2017
6:30–9PM

IN CONVERSATION:
Artist Paul Ramírez Jonas with
Curator Dean Daderko
Saturday, April 29, 2017
11AM–12PM
Learn more about the exhibition during a discussion with the artist and organizing curator. Engage with the artist as he activates *Public Trust* from 1–5PM.

PUBLIC TRUST
Saturdays, April 29–August 5,
2017
1–5PM

Visitors are invited to examine the value of their word by declaring a promise as they engage with Paul Ramírez Jonas's interactive artwork, *Public Trust*. Local performers record these words in a drawing that is shared with the visitor and published on a marquee board alongside similar pronouncements from the news.



Paul Ramírez Jonas
The Commons, 20011
Cork, pushpins, and hardware
153 x 128 x 64 inches
Work and image courtesy the artist and Galeria Nara
Roesler

HOUSTON, TX (February 23, 2017)—Including works made over the past 25 years, *Atlas, Plural, Monumental* is artist Paul Ramírez Jonas's first survey exhibition in the Americas. It features sculpture, photography, video, drawing, and his signature participatory works that demonstrate how Ramírez Jonas is redefining public art through an innovative practice that considers how artworks galvanize the formation of new communities.

Ramírez Jonas utilizes unlikely sources, such as scientific experiments, and treats them as “scores” that he creatively reinterprets. When his faithful reproductions of kites designed by the inventors Alexander Graham Bell and Joseph LeCornu took to the air, they carried alarm clocks Ramírez Jonas re-engineered to trigger the shutter of a single-use disposable camera. The resulting photographs—each paired with their kite—capture images of the artist on the ground. While the kites can be appreciated for their sculptural

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Paul Ramirez Jonas
His Truth is Marching On, 1993
Wood, wine bottles, water, mallet, and hardware
16 × 84 inches (diam.)
The Dikeou Collection, Denver, CO

form, the photographs exhibited alongside them act as proof of their aerial capability. Ramirez Jonas's kites prove the functionality of Graham Bell and Lecornu's designs and simultaneously document the artist's actions. In other instances Ramirez Jonas presents museum visitors with the opportunity to participate in his "scores." In *His Truth is Marching On* (1993), the public is invited to use a mallet to tap a hanging chandelier of water-filled wine bottles, whose successive musical notes produce a rendition of the anthem, *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*.

In 2005, Ramirez Jonas shifted his focus toward more decidedly public forms, including monuments, keys to the city, and public pronouncements. If monuments commonly memorialize singular individuals or events with immutable proclamations in bronze or marble, Ramirez Jonas provides us with memorable, yet mutable, alternatives. *The Commons* (2011) is a riderless equestrian statue crafted entirely from cork, and the public is invited to attach messages to its base with pushpins. In creating a sculpture that accommodates a diversity of messages rather than the singular voice of the state, Ramirez Jonas's engaging work acts to democratize this form. In another participatory work, *Public Trust* (2016-ongoing), audience members make a promise that is recorded in a drawing shared with its maker and with the visiting public via marquee signage in the gallery. The work encourages participants and the audience to consider the impact of their word on the community and individually. Local Houston performers and educators will activate *Public Trust* each Saturday during the exhibition.

Ramirez Jonas's work galvanizes connections between the personal, the collective, and the public, making them concrete and observable. Manifested in visually, materially, and conceptually compelling forms, Ramirez Jonas's work invigorates our cultural commons by inviting the public to reflect on and engage with public art in inventive and surprising ways.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Paul Ramirez Jonas was born in 1965 in California. He lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. He has had solo exhibitions at The Exploratorium, San Francisco (2014); Pinacoteca do Estado, São Paulo, Brazil (2011); The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, Connecticut (2008); The Jack S. Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, Texas (2007); at Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, England (2004) and Cornerhouse, Manchester, England (2004). He has also exhibited with Koenig & Clinton (NYC); Roger Björkholmen (Sweden); Galeria Nara Roesler (São Paulo); and Postmasters Gallery (NYC).

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Paul Ramírez Jonas
Public Trust (performance documentation), 2016.
Produced by Now + There, Boston, August 27–
September 17, 2016
© Paul Ramírez Jonas
Photo: Ryan C. McMahon

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

PERFORMANCE: Musiqa

Thursday, May 4, 2017

6:30–7:30PM

Musiqa presents a special concert in conjunction with the exhibition *Atlas, Plural, Monumental*.

OPEN STUDIO: Kites

Saturday, May 6, 2017

2–4PM

Create your own kite inspired by the work of artist Paul Ramírez Jonas.

His work has been included in group exhibitions at the Guggenheim Museum (NYC), P.S.1. Contemporary Art Center (NYC), and The New Museum (NYC), and at The Whitechapel (London), the Irish Museum of Modern Art (Dublin), and the Kunsthaus Zurich (Switzerland). Ramírez Jonas also participated in the 1st Johannesburg Biennale, the 1st Seoul Biennial, the 6th Shanghai Biennial, the 28th Sao Paulo Biennial, the 53rd Venice Biennial, and the 7th Bienal do Mercosul, Porto Alegre, Brazil. His works are included in the collections of the Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, TX; Bronx Museum, New York, NY; Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, OH; New Museum, New York, NY; Albright-Knox Art Gallery, New York, NY; and Malmö Konstmuseum, Malmö, Sweden.

PUBLICATION

Atlas, Plural, Monumental is accompanied by a generously-illustrated, full-color catalogue with an introductory essay by CAMH Director Bill Arning, an essay by CAMH Curator Dean Daderko, and commissioned essays by Claire Barliant and Shannon Jackson. The most comprehensive survey of the artist's work to date, this book—designed by Federico Pérez Villorio, edited by Karen Kelly and Barbara Schroeder, published by Dancing Foxes Press and the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, and distributed by D.A.P.—features a checklist of works included in the exhibition in addition to biographic and bibliographic information.

OPENING RECEPTION

Atlas, Plural, Monumental

Friday, April 28, 2017 | 6:30–9PM

Celebrate the opening of Paul Ramírez Jonas's first survey exhibition in the Americas, *Atlas, Plural, Monumental*, which includes sculptures, photographs, videos, drawings, performative lectures, and participatory works made from 1991 to 2016. Beverages will be available for purchase at our cash bar.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

These events are free, open to the public, and take place at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston. Seating is limited. Please check CAMH.ORG for the most current information.

EXHIBITION SUPPORT

Atlas, Plural, Monumental is generously supported by Mary and Marcel Barone, Business Solutions International, and Cullen K. Geiselman. The exhibition is also made possible in part by a grant from the Union Pacific Foundation.



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PUBLIC PROGRAMS CONT.

PARTICIPATORY GALLERY TOUR: Deborah Fisher

Thursday, May 25, 2017
6:30–7:30PM

Join Deborah Fisher, an artist, regular collaborator with Paul Ramírez Jonas, and the founding Executive Director of A Blade of Grass, to explore how we “see experiences” in this dynamic discussion of socially engaged art.

ART AT NOON: Ryan Dennis

Friday, June 9, 2017
12–1PM

Join Ryan Dennis, Public Art Director at Project Row Houses, for a discussion on contemporary public art. Light lunch provided.

MUSEUM EXPERIENCE DAY

Saturday, July 29, 2017
11AM–3PM

Come participate in hands-on activities inspired by current exhibitions.

This exhibition is made possible by the patrons, benefactors, and donors to the Museum’s Friends of Steel Exhibitions: Director’s Circle - Chinhui Juhn and Eddie Allen, Faye Sarofim, and Ms. Louisa Stude Sarofim. Curator’s Circle - Mr. and Mrs. I.H. Kempner III. Major Exhibition Circle - A Fare Extraordinaire, Bergner and Johnson Design, Jereann Chaney, Barbara and Michael Gamson, Blakely and Trey Griggs, George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation, Leslie and Mark Hull, Jackson and Company, KPMG, LLP, Beverly and Howard Robinson, and Michael Zilkha.

The catalogue accompanying the exhibition is made possible by a grant from The Brown Foundation, Inc. of Houston.

GENERAL SUPPORT

Funding for the Museum’s operations is generously provided by Melissa Kepke Grobmyer, Louise Jamail, Dillon A. Kyle, Catherine and George Masterson, Elisabeth McCabe, Faye Sarofim, and Robin and Andrew C. Schirrmeister III. The Museum receives partial operating support from The Brown Foundation Inc. of Houston, the Houston Endowment, the City of Houston through the Houston Museum District Association, the Texas Commission on the Arts, The Wortham Foundation, Inc., and Art Market Productions.

CAMH also thanks its artist benefactors for their support, including Chris Beckman, Michael Bise, Bruce High Quality Foundation, Mel Chin, Jules de Balincourt, Julia Dault, Trenton Doyle Hancock, James Drake, Keltie Ferris, Mark Flood, Barnaby Furnas, Theaster Gates, Jeffrey Gibson, Camille Henrot, Jim Hodges, Joan Jonas, Jennie C. Jones, Maya Lin, Julian Lorber, Robert Mangold, Beatriz Milhazes, Melissa Miller, Marilyn Minter, Nic Nicosia, Angel Otero, McKay Otto, Joyce Pensato, Enoc Perez, Gavin Perry, Rob Pruitt, Matthew Richie, Dario Robleto, Ed Ruscha, Jacolby Satterwhite, Cindy Sherman, Shinique Smith, Al Souza, John Sparagana, James Surls, Sam Taylor-Johnson, Carrie Mae Weems, William Wegman, Haegue Yang, and Brenna Youngblood.

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.

ALWAYS FRESH, ALWAYS FREE

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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 CAMH.ORG or call 713 284 8250.

EXHIBITION OPENING

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