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**ALWAYS FRESH
ALWAYS FREE**

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is pleased to present a major exhibition of work by important South African artist Jane Alexander.

*Jane Alexander: Surveys
(from the Cape of Good Hope)*

August 11-November 4, 2012

Opening Reception

Friday, August 10, 2012

Member Preview: 6-7PM

Public Reception: 7-9PM

HOUSTON, TX (July 31, 2012)— The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is pleased to present ***Jane Alexander: Surveys (from the Cape of Good Hope)***, the artist's first solo show in North America. The exhibition features the South African artist's lauded site-specific tableaux alongside sculptures and photomontages. The exhibition is organized by the Museum for African Art (MfAA), New York and is guest curated by Pep Subirós.

Alexander is best known for her sculptural installations populated by hybrid mutants who seem to exist on a border between human and other forms of animal life. Mapping human behavior – its forces, prejudices, and accomplishments – Alexander stages evocative scenes that introduce opportunities to address complex social relations. Although her sculptures, installations, and photomontages are firmly rooted in her South African experience, and speak to the history of apartheid, they also transcend their locality. Her work reveals the disparity felt around the



Jane Alexander, *African Adventure* (detail), 1999-2002. Fiberglass and plaster sculptures, earth, and found miscellaneous objects. Dimensions variable. Photo: Mark Lewis

CAMH



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world between the rhetoric of peace and humanity's capacity for oppression and violence.

Alexander depicts deliberately ambiguous spaces and characters that invite viewers to consider the artwork's specific content and metaphorical associations simultaneously. Though clearly engaged with social issues, her sculptural installations and photographs do not present clear judgments, nor do they convey a particular political or moral standpoint. Lisa Binder, Curator of Contemporary Art at the Museum for African Art states, "Jane Alexander's creatures expose the human animal for all it is and all it could become. Her work challenges viewers to reflect on the relationship between self and other in an ever-evolving global landscape."

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Jane Alexander, born in Johannesburg, South Africa, works primarily in sculpture and photomontage and is widely known for her sculpture *Butcher Boys* (1985-86), which is in the collection of the South African National Gallery. Alexander's solo exhibitions include *Jane Alexander: On Being Human* (2009) at the Galilee Chapel of Durham Cathedral, *Survey* (2009) at Jack Shainman Gallery in New York, *Jane Alexander* (2000) at Gasworks in London, *Bom Boys and Lucky Girls* (1999) at the University of Cape Town, Irma Stern Museum, and traveling solo exhibitions for the Daimler Chrysler Award and the Standard Bank Young Artist Award. Her artwork has been exhibited widely in curated international group exhibitions including the Venice, Havana, Gothenburg, Tirana, Bamako, São Paulo, Singapore, and Dakar biennials, as well as in *Africa Remix* (2006) exhibited in Europe, Japan, and South Africa; *Africas: The Artist and the City* (2001), and *Apartheid: The South African Mirror* (2007) in Spain; *Personal Affects: Power and Poetics in Contemporary South African Art* (2004) in the USA; and *The Short Century* (2002) in Germany and the USA. She currently teaches at the University of Cape Town's Michaelis School of Fine Art.

PUBLICATION

An illustrated catalogue accompanies the exhibition, edited by Pep Subirós with contributions by Jane Alexander, Ashraf Jamal, Kobena Mercer, Simon Njami, Lize van Robbroeck, and Pep Subirós. The publication includes selected excerpts by Lucy Alexander, Okwui Enwezor, Ingo Gildenhard, Sander Gilman, Ashraf Jamal, Julie McGee, John Pepper, Ivor Powell, and Michael Sadgrove.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

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.

Opening Reception: Jane Alexander: Surveys (from the Cape of Good Hope)
Friday, August 10

Member Preview: 6-7PM

Get a first look at the exhibition with the artist and guest curator Pep Subirós.

Public Reception: 7-9PM

Join us in celebrating the opening of *Jane Alexander: Surveys (from the Cape of Good Hope)*.

In Conversation: Jane Alexander and Pep Subirós

Saturday, August 11, 11AM-12PM

Learn more about the exhibition with artist Jane Alexander and Pep Subirós, curator of the exhibition.

Musiqqa Loft Concert

Thursday, October 4

Join us for this popular Loft Concert series held by Musiqqa, a nationally acclaimed contemporary music ensemble that takes a fresh look at the concert experience. Led by five composers, Musiqqa creates programs that combine dance, poetry, theater, film, and visual arts with the finest modern repertoire. Cited by the *Houston Chronicle* as "five Lone Star classical musicians to make us proud," Musiqqa will present a concert inspired by the exhibition *Jane Alexander*.

Artists/Scholars Talk: Gabi Ngcobo
Saturday, October 20

Join us for a talk by Gabi Ngcobo, an independent curator, writer, and artist from Durban, South Africa. She has worked as an Assistant Curator at the South African National Gallery and curated Cape Africa Platform's CAPE 07 bi-annual exhibition, where she also worked as Head of Research and was instrumental in initiating Cape's Young Curator's Programme. Ngcobo recently co-founded the "Center for Historical Reenactment." Ngcobo will speak to Alexander's work and its relation to the South African context that generated it.

EXHIBITION SUPPORT

Jane Alexander: Surveys (from the Cape of Good Hope) is organized by the Museum for African Art, New York, and supported, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Exhibitions in the Brown Foundation Gallery at CAMH have been made possible by the patrons, benefactors and donors to the Museum's Major Exhibition Fund: Major Patron - Chinhui Juhn and Eddie Allen, Fayez Sarofim, and Michael Zilkha. Patrons - Mr. and Mrs. I. H. Kempner III and Ms. Louisa Stude Sarofim. Benefactors - Baker Botts L.L.P. / Anne and David Kirkland, George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation, Louise D. Jamail, Marley Lott, Beverly and Howard Robinson, Andrew Schirrmeister III, Leigh and Reggie Smith, and Mr. Wallace Wilson. Donors - Anonymous, Bank of Texas, Bergner and Johnson Design, The Brown Foundation, Inc., Jereann Chaney, City Kitchen, Susie and Sanford Criner, Elizabeth Howard Crowell, Dillon Kyle Architecture, Sara Dodd-Spickelmier and Keith Spickelmier, Ruth Dreessen and Thomas Van Laan, Marita and J.B. Fairbanks, Jo and Jim Furr, Barbara and Michael Gamson, Brenda and William Goldberg, King & Spalding L.L.P., KPMG, LLP, Judy and Scott Nyquist, Belinda Phelps and Randy Howard, Lauren Rottet, David I. Saperstein, Scurlock Foundation, Susan Vaughan Foundation, Inc., and Karen and Harry Susman.

EDUCATION SUPPORT

The Museum receives support for its education programs from: Anonymous, 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, Mark and Mary Ann Miller, Texas Commission on the Arts, Texas Women for the Arts, Ms. Louisa Stude Sarofim, and Martha Claire Tompkins.

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, Jo and Jim Furr, Barbara and Michael Gamson, Brenda and William Goldberg, Mr. and Mrs. I.H. Kempner III, 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 or call 713 284 8250.