

## PRESS RELEASE

# Contemporary Arts Museum Houston

#CAMHTEENCOUNCIL

EXHIBITION OPENING  
ORIGINS OF THE SELF  
January 28–March 4, 2017



Claudia Garcia-Quinones  
*Nucleus*, 2016  
Fabric and fiberfill  
13 x 13 x 7 inches  
Image courtesy the artist  
Photo by Emily Peacock

OPENING RECEPTION:  
*Origins of the Self*  
Friday, January 27, 2017  
6:30–9PM

HOUSTON, TX (January 4, 2016)—The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston’s Teen Council is pleased to present *Origins of the Self*, a group exhibition featuring work by Houston-area teen artists. Focusing on themes surrounding personal identity, the exhibition presents 86 artworks by 63 teens in a variety of media including photography, painting, video, and sculpture. *Origins of the Self* is the 10th biennial youth art exhibition organized by CAMH’s Teen Council.

Every other year, CAMH’s Teen Council organizes an exhibition in the Zilkha Gallery featuring new work by young, Houston-area artists. The Teen Council members work collaboratively to select the theme, title, and artworks featured in the exhibition while assisting with the design, installation, printed exhibition catalogue, and related programming. Drawing from an open call, the Teen Council received almost 400 submissions responding to the questions: What is the real you? Where is the real you? How do you define the real you in a constantly changing landscape?

“Coming of age is often represented as a solitary process, but our environments construct the self and often create a disconnect between the self we present and our true self. The goal of this exhibition is to recognize these contradictions and facilitate a reconciliation of these

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Miranda Gonzalez Miramon  
*La Dueña*, 2016  
Digital photographic print  
13 × 9 inches  
Image courtesy the artist

binaries: to create a space that embraces gray areas,” says Ife Omidiran, CAMH Teen Council Member.

Living in a world overwhelmed by social media, teens are navigating how to represent themselves while trying to locate genuine connections and understand their peers through digital profiles, likes, and comments. In search of how to define themselves—whether that is online, in school, or at home—the young artists in this exhibition explore their response to societal expectations. The artists also recognize that adolescence is a time to explore, search, and learn about how they choose to define themselves independently of their family and friends.

“Throughout the selection process, the Teen Council members listened to each other, spoke diplomatically, and were true collaborators. The submissions informed the theme in surprising ways and helped the Teen Council settle on the title for the show. These young artists have reminded us that above all exploration leads to discovery,” says Michael Simmonds, Teen Council and Public Programs Coordinator at CAMH.

Selected works include: *Lost in Translation*, a mixed media portrait by Andy Liu that shows an incomplete drawing of a young woman layered over a background of encyclopedia entries and sheet music. Areas of the portrait allow the background to show through, asking questions about influence, technology, and how we find information in a fast-changing world. Briana Hernandez’s *Broken Up* fragments an image of a teenager facing the audience with a solemn expression. The physical fragmentation reflects the conflicts that teenagers face as they attempt to find and define their identity. While many of the works in the exhibition play with the idea of portraiture, other pieces veer from the human face to explore ways that we identify ourselves, including Claudia Garcia-Quinones’s wall-mounted sculpture *Nucleus*, composed of delicately-sewn felt legs radiating from a center point and moving in different directions. This piece evokes a feeling of chaos and confusion, possibly revealing that these sentiments are at the heart of adolescence.

*Origins of the Self* is on view from January 28–May 7, 2017. The exhibition is organized by CAMH’s Teen Council under the guidance of Michael Simmonds, Teen Council and Public Programs Coordinator. The Teen Council has organized a variety of complementary programming to accompany the exhibition, including a Poetry Slam and a Music Fest, in addition to leading art-making workshops at a Family Day and Open Studio events in March and April respectively.

### ABOUT CAMH’S TEEN COUNCIL

The Teen Council is a group of dedicated high school students who are employed by the museum to create programming for their peers. Teen Council members participate in a two year-long program where

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they receive in-depth, behind-the-scenes museum experience; learn about pathways to creative careers; and develop leadership, collaboration, and critical thinking skills while gaining real-world experience planning exhibitions and events in a museum setting. Applications to CAMH's Teen Council are available online Spring 2017. The 2016-2017 members are: David Akinwande, Ilona Altman, Elizabeth Hoskins, Sam Kenninton, Angela Liu, Lucas Martins, Connor Mizell, Isabella Neblett, Ife Omidiran, Joyce Park, Gabriel Seyoum, Matthew Watowich, Thor Westergaard, and Asia Youngs-Bailey.

### PUBLICATION

*Origins of the Self* is accompanied by an illustrated color catalogue that includes a foreword by Michael Simmonds, CAMH's Teen Council and Public Programs Coordinator, and an essay by Teen Council member Isabella Neblett. The catalogue features images of selected individual works, as well as of the exhibition installation, and is designed by CAMH's Graphic Designer Amanda Thomas.

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

## PUBLIC PROGRAMS

### OPENING RECEPTION:

*Origins of the Self*

Friday, January 27, 2017  
6:30–9PM

### OPEN STUDIO

Saturday, March 4, 2017  
2–4PM

### FAMILY DAY

Saturday, March 18, 2017  
1–4PM

### POETRY SLAM + CATALOGUE RELEASE PARTY

Thursday, March 23, 2017  
6:30–7:30PM

### OPEN STUDIO

Saturday, April 1, 2017  
12–1PM

### MUSIC FEST

Thursday, April 13, 2017  
6:30–8:30PM

### 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

*Origins of the Self* is supported in part by an award from Mid-America Arts Alliance, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Texas Commission on the Arts, and foundations, corporations, and individuals throughout Arkansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas.



Teen Council is generously supported by Ms. Louisa Stude Sarofim.

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, Dillon A. Kyle, and Robin and Andrew Schirrmeister; Major Exhibition Circle - A Fare Extraordinaire, Bergner and Johnson Design, Jereann Chaney, Marita and J.B. Fairbanks, 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

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Zilkha; Perspectives Exhibition Circle - Ruth Dreessen and Thomas Van Laan, Glen Gonzalez and Steve Summers, Louise D. Jamail, Leigh and Reggie Smith, Mr. Wallace Wilson, and The Susan Vaughan Foundation, Inc.

### GENERAL SUPPORT

Funding for the Museum's operations and programs is made possible by generous grants from Chinhui Juhn and Eddie Allen, Jereann Chaney, Marita and J.B. Fairbanks, Jo and Jim Furr, Barbara and Michael Gamson, Brenda and William Goldberg, Leticia Loya, Fayez Sarofim, Robin and Andrew Schirrmeister, and Marion and David Young. 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**

### 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.



Alyssa Collier  
*Irreplaceable*, 2016  
Digital photographic print  
13 x 13 inches  
Image courtesy the artist