

Press Release Berlin, April 12, 2017

Press Contact

KW Institute for Contemporary Art
Katja Zeidler
Tel. +49 30 243459 41
press@kw-berlin.de

KW Institute for Contemporary Art announces Summer Program 2017

Enemy of the Stars: Ronald Jones in dialogue with **David Hammons, Louise Lawler, Helmar Lerski** and **Julia Scher**

May 20 – August 6, 2017

Opening: May 19, 2017, 7–10 pm

Hiwa K

Don't Shrink me to the Size of a Bullet

June 2 – August 13, 2017

Opening: June 1, 2017, 7–10 pm

Nicholas Mangan

Limits to Growth

June 2 – August 13, 2017

Opening: June 1, 2017, 7–10 pm

Departing from an investigation into language as a driving force and political instrument in artistic practices the summer season at KW looks at the impact that politics have more specifically on objects, locations, and the infrastructures that shape our everyday. Through a constellation of exhibitions the season probes the ideological systems that govern our existence and the complex and interrelated causes and effects that each decision has within these networks.

The season is spearheaded by the exhibition *Enemy of the Stars*, which re-examines the artistic and theoretical practice of American artist and critic **Ronald Jones** and its relevancy in the current political climate. During the 1980s and 90s, Jones produced a body of work that sought to reveal the patterns of key political occurrences that shape our existence through drawing connections between parallel and seemingly unrelated events. Jones often drew on design and art historical references and placed them in conversation with historical incidents and socio cultural manifestations often with the aim to bridge abstraction, utility, and historical fact, questioning the relationship between style and aesthetics and a social political consciousness.

Simultaneously, two ambitious solo exhibitions survey the work of Australian artist **Nicholas Mangan** and Iraqi-Kurdish artist **Hiwa K**—winner of the Schering Stiftung Art Award 2016. Mangan's work maps our (colonial) understanding of land, trade, and economics through the lens of geology and systems theory, while Hiwa K's autobiographical constructs form the backdrop for performative interventions in which the politics of migration and refuge are critically tackled.

Enemy of the Stars:

Ronald Jones in dialogue with **David Hammons, Louise Lawler, Helmar Lerski** and **Julia Scher**

May 20 – August 6, 2017

Opening: May 19, 2017, 7–10 pm

Press Preview: May 19, 2017, 11 am

American artist and critic **Ronald Jones** (born 1952, US) gained prominence in New York during the mid-1980s by using disparate formal and minimal languages to explore history as a medium. Through juxtapositions of historical events, innovations, discoveries, violence and fear, he explores the complex interrelation of events as they define our perception of ourselves and the world often through connecting seemingly unrelated occurrences. The relationship between the modernist code and the codes of power is the persistent theme in his work.

The reconsideration and repositioning of the political, social, and economical value of ‘the object’ has become rather topical in recent contemporary art production and therefore revisiting some of Jones’ pioneer work is necessary to continue this debate within the current political climate. Fear has become a larger motor to societal developments over the past years, calling democratic processes into question. Jones outwardly idiosyncratic pairings help to reveal underlying processes that shape our decision-making.

Following his show at the Grazer Kunstverein in 2014, which presented works to the public for the first time since his withdrawal as an artist in the mid-1990s, the exhibition *Enemy of the Stars* aims to reflect and expand upon Ronald Jones’ practice by placing crucial work in close dialogue with peers at the time such as **David Hammons, Louise Lawler,** and **Julia Scher** as well as with historical works from **Helmar Lerski** in order to open a critical dialogue on how political ideas relate to biography, text in relation to form, and identity in relation to subject.

The exhibition *Enemy of the Stars* is organized by artist **Jason Dodge** and **Krist Gruijthuijsen**, director of KW Institute for Contemporary Art.

Enemy of the Stars is generously supported by the KW Freunde e. V., U.S. Embassy Berlin, Pedro Barbosa, and Julia Stoschek Collection. The presentation of the work of Helmar Lerski is supported by Museum Folkwang, Essen (DE).

Addendum

Series of events with **Jenna Bliss, Sidsel Meineche Hansen, Ishion Hutchinson,** and **K.r.m. Mooney**

May 20 – August 6, 2017

The exhibition *Enemy of the Stars* will be accompanied by a series of commissions and adaptations that run alongside the exhibition, featuring work by **Jenna Bliss, Sidsel Meineche Hansen, Ishion Hutchinson,** and **K.r.m. Mooney**. Through temporary sculptural insertions, performance, film, readings, and collaborative practices the series temporarily expands on, complicates, and probes the premises of the exhibition. Organized by **Anna Gritz**, curator of KW.

Hiwa K

Don't Shrink me to the Size of a Bullet

June 2 – August 13, 2017

Opening: June 1, 2017, 7–10 pm

Press Preview: June 1, 2017, 11 am

KW Institute for Contemporary Art and the Schering Stiftung present *Don't Shrink me to the Size of a Bullet* by artist **Hiwa K** (born 1975, IQ), winner of the Schering Stiftung Art Award 2016. For the exhibition at KW, the artist presents a selection of works from the past ten years as well as an ambitious new production, co-produced by the Schering Stiftung, with support of the Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg.

Forced to leave his home country for political reasons, the disconnection with what was formally known as “home” is crucial to the artistic inquiry undertaken by Hiwa K. This question drives the artist to produce work in which vernacular forms, oral histories, and political constructs are intertwined. The various references in his practice consist of stories told by family members and friends, found situations, and everyday encounters that evolve around make-shift solutions and pragmatic approaches to often complex ideas and concepts. In this capacity, the artist attempts to retain the traditions surrounding his upbringing while also obtaining the knowledge that will help him to further integrate into newer environments.

The longing for connection, curiosity, and the desire to learn remain key to the artist’s exploration of the relationship between personal and the collective systems of thought. When arriving in Europe in 2001, he took the opportunity to study music and became a pupil of the Flamenco master Paco Peña. Acting as a tool to create another dimension of critique within today’s society, his relationship to music has since become a key element in the work. Music has also functioned as a bridge to create a strong collective and participatory dimension within his practice and working models.

The exhibition is accompanied by an extensive publication, which presents the entirety of the artist’s oeuvre to date. The publication, *Don’t Shrink Me to the Size of a Bullet*, is edited by **Anthony Downey** and is published by Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther König.

The exhibition *Hiwa K: Don’t Shrink Me to the Size of a Bullet. Schering Stiftung Art Award* is a collaboration between the Schering Stiftung and KW Institute for Contemporary Art.

Nicholas Mangan

Limits to Growth

June 2 – August 13, 2017

Opening: June 1, 2017, 7–10 pm

Press Preview: June 1, 2017, 11 am

Limits to Growth is the first survey exhibition by Australian artist **Nicholas Mangan** (born 1979, AU) and a unique introduction to the depth and variety of Mangan’s practice to European audiences. With a strong research base in both history and science, Mangan’s work addresses a range of themes, including the ongoing impacts of colonialism, humanity’s relationship with the natural environment, contemporary consumptive cultures, and the complex dynamics of the global political economy. At KW Mangan’s solo exhibition brings together five key projects produced over the last nine years in conversation with a new film production. The show lends its title from the work *Limits to Growth* (2016), which was produced for the touch and which explores the relationship between two monetary currencies: Rai, large stone coins from the Micronesian island of Yap, and Bitcoin, a digital currency allegedly invented by Satoshi Nakamoto in 2008.

The range of works presented as part of the exhibition is characteristic of Mangan’s approach to tackle the key questions of our era through an in-depth look at the socio-political implications of energy extradition. A particular focus is placed on the narratives crucial to Mangan’s own geographical region—Asia Pacific, and the role of his home country Australia.

The survey exhibition was developed jointly by KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin with Monash University Museum of Art in Melbourne (MUMA), and the Institute of Modern Art in Brisbane (IMA). The exhibition is accompanied by an extensive publication published by Sternberg Press. It includes newly commissioned texts by Ana Teixeira Pinto and Helen Hughes, along with a conversation between the artist and Barcelona-based curatorial office *Latitudes*.

The exhibition *Nicholas Mangan: Limits to Growth* is generously supported by Australia Now.

Alongside its exhibition program, KW is continuously pushing beyond the confines of the physical building through its commission program. These commissions are produced in order to present a different temporality and dedication to art production, in which the environment and architecture of both institutions—KW and the Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art—is challenged. New additions for this season are by **atelier le balto**, **Trevor Paglen**, and **Felix Gonzalez-Torres**.

KW is also delighted to announce the *KW Production Series*, a new commissioning project dedicated to artists' moving image. In collaboration with the Julia Stoschek Collection and Outset Germany, KW will concentrate on two new productions per year. The series is inaugurated with artists **Jamie Crewe** and **Beatrice Gibson**. The series is produced by **Mason Leaver-Yap**, Associate Curator at KW.

KW Institute for Contemporary Art is institutionally supported by the Senate Department for Culture and Europe.

Opening Hours

Wednesday–Monday 11 am–7 pm

Thursday 11 am–9 pm

Closed on Tuesday

Admission

8 €, reduced 6 €

Admission free on Thursday evening from 6–9 pm and every first Sunday of the month

Combined Dayticket KW Institute for Contemporary Art / me Collectors Room Berlin

10 €, reduced 8 €

Free Guided Tours

KW offers free guided tours through the exhibitions during regular opening hours.

For further information on tours for large groups (over 10 people) please contact Katja Zeidler at kaz@kw-berlin.de.

Titles and exhibition dates are subject to change.