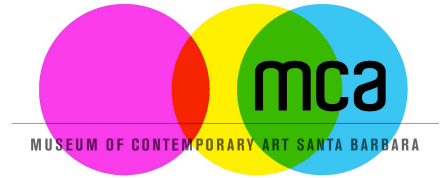


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For Immediate Release

Exhibitions on view: January 5 – April 13, 2014

Almost Anything Goes: Architecture and Inclusivity

Bloom Projects: Zack Paul, *Geometric Landscapes*

Opening Reception: Saturday, January 4, 6–8 pm

Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara, 653 Paseo Nuevo, Arts Terrace

The Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara (MCASB) welcomes six Los Angeles-based creatives whose work embraces cross-fertilization, collaboration, and adaptation—thus creating new methodologies for research and implementation in the fields of architecture and beyond. Participants include: Catherine Johnson and Rebecca Rudolph, **Design Bitches**; Doris Sung, **DO/SU Studio Architecture**; Benjamin Ball and Gaston Nogues, **Ball Nogues Studio**; Miles Kemp, **Digital Physical / Variate Labs**; Elena Manferdini, **Atelier Manferdini**; and Ramiro Diaz Granados, **Amorphis LA**.



Left to right: Ball-Nogues Studio, *Rip Curl Canyon*, 2006, Cardboard, plywood, screws, and hardware, 44 x 40 x 11 ft., Commissioned by Rice Gallery in collaboration with The Museum Fine Arts, Houston, TX, Courtesy the Artists. Photo: Nash Baker; Amorphis, Ramiro Diz-Granados and Matthew Au, *Go Figure*, 2012, Mixed media, Dimensions variable, Courtesy the Artists. Photo: Josh White

On the basis of installations, photography, material samples, textiles, and interactive media, *Almost Anything Goes* presents a wide range of activity produced by some of Los Angeles' most innovative and contemporary practitioners trained in architecture. The last 20 years have witnessed a groundswell of interest in the field and this exhibition considers the next generation of Los Angeles makers, thinkers, and teachers who are traversing myriad related fields (visual arts, theory, design, and fashion) from an architectural perspective.

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The spirit of inclusivity in this exhibition owes to a particular set of extant conditions particular to Los Angeles, including a recession-driven dearth of building projects, new digital technologies, growing ecological concerns, and a renegade spirit of experimentation unburdened by the weight of tradition.

The exhibition is co-organized by MCASB Executive Director and Chief Curator Miki Garcia and Visiting Curator Brigitte Kouo. Kouo is a designer with a varied academic and professional background in architecture, graphics, and visual culture. She holds a MArch from the Southern California Institute of Architecture, Los Angeles, a MA in art history from The University of Texas at Austin, and a BA in art history from Northwestern University, Evanston, IL.

While *Almost Anything Goes* is reflective of present-day phenomena, the organizers of this exhibition acknowledge the notion of the *gesamkunstwerk* (a total work of art) and a long history of architects working in areas outside the traditional building milieu. “This exhibition acts as an antenna receiving and transmitting information about the field and offering a more prismatic and varied perspective on architecture today,” explains Garcia. “With visual artists engaging in architectural projects, *Almost Anything Goes* brings the fields of visual arts and architecture closer together for a broader exploration of contemporary culture.”

Special thanks to: *Casa Magazine*, Santa Barbara, CA; The James Irvine Foundation, San Francisco, CA; Jensen Audio Visual, Santa Barbara, CA; Paseo Nuevo Shopping Center, Santa Barbara, CA; *Santa Barbara Independent*, CA; and Wayne McCall & Associates, Santa Barbara, CA.



Zack Paul, *Geometric Landscape #1* (Detail), 2012, Sandpaper and flashé vinyl on wood and cardboard, 12 x 12 in., Courtesy the Artist (Detail and Top View)

Bloom Projects: Zack Paul, *Geometric Landscapes*

Santa Barbara-based artist Zack Paul will create a newly commissioned work for the winter installment of the **Bloom Projects** solo exhibition series. Paul will present an immersive installation experience made mostly out of sandpaper that stems from architectural aerial photos of roofs denoting the repetitive geometrization of the planet's surface. The works are inspired in part by 1960's design styles and Phillip K. Dick's science fiction novel *The Three Stigmata of Palmer Eldritch*, where people are forced to live only under roofs. With a background in graphic design, the artist seeks materials with defined physicality and often deconstructs the mixed use of hand-constructed and industrial fabrication of art. Blurring boundaries between design, collage, sculpture, and interior decoration, the work includes 45-degree angle and horizontal paintings and a wall-to-wall mural that plays with perspective, the human scale, and material displacement and re-contextualization.

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Paul currently lives and works in Santa Barbara. A self-taught artist, Paul was recently featured in a solo exhibition at Sullivan Goss, Santa Barbara, CA; and he has participated in group exhibitions at Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum (now MCASB), CA; Atkinson Gallery, Santa Barbara City College, CA; Kitsch Gallery, San Francisco, CA; and AP'Art International Contemporary Art Festival, St. Remy, France.

Special thanks to: *Casa Magazine*, Santa Barbara, CA; Eric Chirside, Santa Barbara, CA; The James Irvine Foundation, San Francisco, CA; Jensen Audio Visual, Santa Barbara, CA; Paseo Nuevo Shopping Center, Santa Barbara, CA; *Santa Barbara Independent*, CA; *Santa Barbara Sentinel*, CA; and Wayne McCall & Associates, Santa Barbara, CA.

About Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara:

The Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara (MCASB) is a non-profit, non-collecting museum dedicated to the exhibition, education, and cultivation of the arts of our time. Formerly Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum (CAF), MCASB is the premier venue for contemporary art between Los Angeles and San Francisco. MCASB is located at the Paseo Nuevo Shopping Center Upper Arts Terrace in downtown Santa Barbara, CA. Visit our second location, MCASB Satellite @ Hotel Indigo Santa Barbara at 121 State Street.

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