



PRESS RELEASE

Lars Jan: HOLOSCENES / Quaternary Suite

January 25–May 31, 2015



UNTITLED 1, 2014. Chromogenic print, acrylic, LEDs,
36 inches diameter. Courtesy of the Artist.

Pasadena, CA — The Pasadena Museum of California Art (PMCA) is proud to present *Lars Jan: HOLOSCENES / Quaternary Suite*, the artist's first solo museum exhibition. Jan's practice has long grappled with the challenges of modern living: the changes technology produces in human relationships and the unclassifiable nature of experience, among others. Begun in 2011, *HOLOSCENES* is a multimedia, multi-site artwork that explores humanity's troubled relationship with water, an issue the artist believes will become central to the 21st century. As part of the project, the artist devised animated portraits of people carrying out everyday behaviors, exercises of habit and absent-mindedness—making a telephone call, coiling a garden hose, eating ramen—while submerged in a cylindrical tank, their actions transformed by seven tons of moving water. In the PMCA's Project Room, Jan mounts *Quaternary Suite*, an installation of beautiful and disturbing images taken from these performances, including a video triptych and *light circumferences*—custom-fabricated, frameless, circular light-boxes.

HOLOSCENES was born out of the artist's musings on the human impact on the biosphere, which led him to a debate on the current epoch we live in today. Civilization has evolved primarily within the geologic epoch of the Holocene, the period since the last ice age approximately twelve thousand years ago. However, some believe that we have already entered the Anthropocene—an epoch initiated by the industrial revolution and characterized by man's impact on the earth over the past few dozen decades, in contrast to previous epochs that were measured in the thousands of years. The projected rise of sea level is central to this dramatic shift in the biosphere, foreshadowed by receding glaciers, melting polar ice caps, and the countless catastrophic floods of recent memory. Like many outside the scientific community, Jan had never heard of or given much thought to any geologic epoch other than the Jurassic.

Informed by his background in performance, the word Holocene struck Jan as "hollow scene," a scene completely devoid of action, setting, and characters. Contending with this void became the foundation for this work and led to his crafting a series of simulated choreographies of the everyday. The artist staged these "holo scenes" within a continuously flooding cylinder, the pulsing water moving slowly enough so that the figures are often imperceptibly submerged as they



Left: *ABAYA 1*, 2014. Chromogenic print, acrylic, LEDs, 36 inches diameter. Courtesy of the Artist.

Right: *CHARLESTON 2*, 2014. Chromogenic print, acrylic, LEDs, 36 inches diameter. Courtesy of the Artist.

continue their mundane actions, pointing to the immense human capability for adaptation. Appearing as though stored behind glass, they evoke the formaldehyde-filled specimen containers of 19th century *wunderkammer*, as well as the stuffed, posed inhabitants of a natural history diorama, or—for two nude portraits in particular—a futuristic rendering of adults in utero. The eerie, prescient scenes may forecast what is to come.

Lars Jan: HOLOSCENES / Quaternary Suite is organized by the Pasadena Museum of California Art.

Programs

Saturday, January 31, 2015

SoCal Museums Free-for-All

Over twenty museums—presenting art, cultural heritage, natural history, and science—will open their doors and invite visitors free of charge. This offer is for general museum admission only and does not apply to specially ticketed exhibitions. For a list of participating museums and more information, visit socialmuseums.org.

Sunday, March 1, 2015 • 1:00pm

Insight Talk

Artist Lars Jan will describe the genesis of *Holoscenes*, including his inspiration, collaborations, and research; the project's multi-year development; and additional platforms, including the large-scale public performance. He will also share new photographs and videos from the next *Holoscenes* visual art series: *The Anthropocene Suite*.

Friday, March 13, 2015 • 6:00–10:00pm

ArtNight Pasadena

Enjoy free admission, extended hours, and complimentary shuttle transportation at the PMCA and other cultural destinations around Pasadena. For more information, visit artnightpasadena.org.

Saturday, April 25, 2015 • 1:00–5:00pm

Earth Day “Happening”

OFF-SITE EVENT @ Corita Art Center • 5515 Franklin Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90028

PASADENA MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA ART

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Corita's festive, participatory, highly-choreographed "Happenings" succeeded in breaking down barriers, encouraging creativity, and fostering a sense of community. In honor of Earth Day, the Corita Art Center presents a Corita-style "Happening" warm-up—followed by an earth-centric art lesson by former student, artist, and master teacher, Laurine DiRocco, hosted on the very grounds where Corita taught.

Part of a series of events leading up to the exhibition *Someday is Now: The Art of Corita Kent*—a full-scale survey of work by the innovative artist, activist, and teacher—opening in June 2015

Saturday, May 9, 2015 • 3:00–5:00pm

Family Day

Participate in fun art projects for the whole family based on our current exhibitions. Activities include painting, collaging, printmaking, and much more. All ages welcome!

Museum Information

MISSION

The mission of the Pasadena Museum of California Art (PMCA) is to present the breadth of California art and design through exhibitions that explore the cultural dynamics and influences that are unique to California.

HOURS

Open Wednesday–Sunday, 12–5pm; third Thursday of every month, 5–8pm; closed Mondays, Tuesdays, July 4, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

ADMISSION

\$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors and students; free for PMCA members and children under 12; free the first Friday of every month (12–5pm); free the third Thursday of every month (5–8pm). Access for people with disabilities is provided.

PLAN YOUR VISIT

The museum is located at 490 East Union Street. From the 210 Freeway, take the Lake Avenue exit. Go south and take a right on Union Street. From the 110 Freeway/Downtown Los Angeles, follow the freeway until its end, then take Arroyo Parkway and turn right at Colorado, then left at Oakland to get to Union Street. Parking is available at the Museum.

DOCENT TOURS AND GROUP RATES

The museum offers docent tours on the second Saturday of each month (2pm; free with admission). Docent tours are also available Wednesday–Friday, 12–5pm, to private groups for a fee of \$75. A non-refundable deposit of \$40 is due two weeks prior to the scheduled date. Self-guided tours for K–12 students are offered for free. We regret that we are unable to accommodate docent tours for groups larger than 35 people. Before requesting a tour, please check the exhibition calendar to see which exhibitions will be available during your visit.

A discounted group rate of \$3 per person is available for groups of 20 or more (K–12 student groups are free). Please call to notify us at least one week in advance for these special admission rates. For any questions or to make reservations for a tour or group rate, call our Bookstore and Membership Associate, Susan Wang, at 626.568.3665 x14 or email swang@pmcaonline.org.

For more information, please call 626.568.3665 or visit pmcaonline.org.