

Claire Fontaine: Economies

On view at MOCA, North Miami from June 3 – August 22, 2010

(North Miami, FL) - The **Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami** will present the first comprehensive U.S. museum exhibition for the Paris-based collective artist **Claire Fontaine from June 3 – August 22, 2010**. Featuring sculpture, painting, neon, video and text, ***Claire Fontaine: Economies*** presents works from 2006 to the present including numerous new pieces created especially for the exhibition as well as a “moving image toolbox” consisting of films and videos that have influenced Fontaine’s work. *Claire Fontaine: Economies* is organized by the Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami and is curated by MOCA Associate Curator Ruba Katrib.

In 2004, Claire Fontaine took the name of a French paper company and called herself a ready-made artist. Managed by “assistants,” Fontaine’s practice is deeply imbedded in collaborative modes of working and questioning possibilities for social change.

“Claire Fontaine’s work asks us to reconsider our assumptions as art viewers as well as members of society and to question daily facets of life that are often taken for granted,” said MOCA Associate Curator Ruba Katrib. “*Economies* is a visual meditation on alternative value systems and on the contradictions connected to concepts of ‘ownership’ today, which is especially relevant in the current economic climate.”

Among the works on view is *Untitled (Tennis Ball Sculpture)* (2009), a floor installation comprised of tennis balls that are slit open to reveal their contents, including such items as hairpins, toffees, socks and batteries that become “currency” inside prisons. The work is a response to stories of contraband entering American prisons via tennis balls thrown into prison yards. In *Change*, (2006), Fontaine turns money into a weapon, outfitting 12 quarters with retractable box cutter blades. *Untitled (Missing)* (2010), is a non-functional piece of a sawed-off shotgun that despite an inability to render harm, creates a sense of unease as the whereabouts of its other parts are unknown. In *Queens* (2004), an animation shows a British one pound coin cheating luck as it slowly rotates to reveal that is the same on both sides, while in *Recession Sculpture (American Gas)* (2009), Fontaine creates a system to reduce the evidence of energy consumption with a vacuum cleaner hooked up to a propane gas meter that sucks air out of the meter, causing its numbers to go backwards.



A “moving-image toolbox” featuring films that have influenced Claire Fontaine includes: Trinh T. Minh-ha’s *Reassemblage* (1982), Barbet Schroeder’s *Koko: A Talking Gorilla*, (1978), *East of Paradise*, dir. Lech Kowalski, 2005; and *D’amore si vive*, dir. Silvano Agosti, 1984.

Funding for the exhibition is provided by the French American Cultural Exchange. A full color catalogue featuring essays by MOCA Associate Curator Ruba Katrib and Tom McDonough, Associate Professor of Modern Architecture and Urbanism at the Art History Dept. at Binghamton University will accompany the exhibition.

Events:

Opening Reception

***Claire Fontaine: Economies* - Thursday, June 3, 7 – 9 pm**

RSVP requested: 305.893.6211, rsvp@mocanomi.org

Free for MOCA members, North Miami residents; \$10 non-members

Art Talk: Claire Fontaine

Saturday, June 5, 2 pm

Free with museum admission

RSVP: 305.893.6211

Film Screenings

All films are free with museum admission

Wednesday, June 16, 7 pm

Koko: A Talking Gorilla, dir. Barbet Schroeder, 1978

Wednesday, July 7, 7 pm

Reassemblage, dir. Trinh T. Minh-ha, 1982

Wednesday, July 21, 7 pm

D’amore si vive, dir. Silvano Agosti (with English subtitles), 1984

Wednesday, August 18, 7 pm

East of Paradise, dir. Lech Kowalski, 2005

MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

770 NE 125th Street, North Miami, FL 33161 / 305.893.6211 / www.mocanomi.org



Hours and Admission: MOCA is open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday from 11 am to 5 pm; Wednesday from 1 pm – 9 pm; and Sunday from noon to 5 pm. MOCA's galleries are also open on the last Friday of each month from 7 – 10 pm in conjunction with Jazz at MOCA performances. Admission is free for MOCA members, North Miami residents and City employees and children under 12.

The mission of the Museum of Contemporary Art is to make contemporary art accessible to diverse audiences—especially under-served populations—by exploring the art of our time and its relationship to a broader cultural context.

Exhibitions and programs at MOCA are made possible through grants from the City of North Miami. Sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and the National Endowment for the Arts. With the support of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners. The Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami is accredited by the American Association of Museums.