

**FINALISTS ANNOUNCED FOR MOCA's ANNUAL
OPTIC NERVE VIDEO FESTIVAL**

SCREENING FRIDAY AUGUST 23, 8 pm
Preceded by Art Talk at 7 pm with Aram Moshayedi
Curator, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA

July 26, 2013... The Museum of Contemporary Art has announced the finalists that will be featured in **Optic Nerve 15**, the annual festival of short videos by artists. This open international call initiated by MOCA allows artists worldwide to submit recent work for consideration. These finalists represent 5% of total submissions. Winning work(s), selected by MOCA Curator and Interim Director Alex Gartenfeld, will be acquired for MOCA's permanent collection.

Finalists are:

Uri Aran (Brooklyn, NY) *Untitled (I Love You)*
Amy Bessone (Los Angeles, CA), *Untitled (Sunny Side Up)*
Tony Cokes (Providence, RI) *RRK (Reading Rosalind Krauss)*
Samantha Harmon (Bronx, NY) *Patricia Harmon, John Harmon*
Cindy Hinant (New York, NY) *SELFISH*
Juwon Lee (White Plains, NY) *Hidden Stories of Super Mario Bros (part 3/6)*
Jillian Mayer (Plantation, FL) *How to Hide From Cameras*
Mores McWreath (Brooklyn, NY) *Sharing Lazy Gains*
Takeshi Murata (New York, NY) *Shiboogi*
Katja Pratschke (Berlin, Germany) *ANSELMA*
Jon Rafman (Montreal, Canada), *In The Realms of Gold*
Rachel Rose (New York, NY) *Sitting Feeding Sleeping*
Mark Ariel Waller (London, UK) *TIME TOGETHER – Gravitational Equilibrium*
Yunyi Yi (Palisade Park, NJ) *Maya (not that)*

These 14 finalists were selected by a panel of world-class curators:

Andrew Bonacina, Artistic Director of International Project Space, Birmingham, UK; **Alex Gartenfeld**, Curator and Interim Director, MOCA

North Miami; **Debbie Grimberg**, independent curator, Buenos Aires; **Kathryn Kraczon**, Assistant Curator, ICA, Philadelphia; **Aram Moshayedi**, Curator, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; and **Hanne Mugaas**, Director and Curator, Kunsthall Stavanger, Norway. All films were made in the last two years and are five minutes or less in length.

Gartenfeld says: "Optic Nerve is a crucial aspect of MOCA's annual programming. It reflects the museum's commitment to innovations in new media. The open call is an enduring format that reached leading members of the community in Miami, and beyond."

Optic Nerve will be screened at MOCA on Friday, August 23 at 8 pm, preceded by an Art Talk by Aram Moshayedi at 7 pm. Prior to his new position at the Hammer Museum, Moshayedi served as associate curator of the Gallery at The Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater (REDCAT). He is also the former curator at LA><ART, a nonprofit contemporary art space in Los Angeles. Moshayedi has written extensively on art and film/video in numerous publications including *Artforum*, *Art in America*, *Frieze*, *X-TRA Contemporary Art Quarterly* and *Bidoun* for which he is also a contributing editor.

Space is extremely limited. Reservations may be made by visiting www.mocanomi.org or calling 305 893 6211. The talk and screening are free with museum admission (\$5 Adults; \$3 students and seniors, free for members and residents of North Miami.) Optic Nerve 15 will play continuously during museum hours Saturday, August 24 and Sunday, August 25. Audiences will be invited to vote for their favorite entry.

The series will also be shown simultaneously at MARTES, Museo de Arte El Salvador. Subsequent international screening dates will be announced.

MOCA's Optic Nerve is recognized as an important forum for emerging artists working in film. This is its 15th iteration. Since its inception

in 2000, over 220 artists have been featured in this series, many of them publicly presenting their work for the first time.