

***Tang Teaching Museum Announces the Opening of
Machine Project — The Platinum Collection
(Live by Special Request)***

SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY (Sept. 15, 2015)—Beginning September 19, The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College will present the exhibition *Machine Project — The Platinum Collection (Live by Special Request)*, on view through Jan. 3, 2016.

Founded in 2003 by Mark Allen, the Los Angeles-based collaborative Machine Project has worked with hundreds of artists and institutions over the last twelve years to create new ways of seeing and thinking about the world. The organization describes its mission as “collaborating with artists, thinkers, and local communities to produce non-commercial projects that investigate art, performance, technology, science, music, literature, and new ideas for creative engagement.”

Machine Project — The Platinum Collection (Live by Special Request) will feature works generated by Allen and a group of artist collaborators on-site at the Tang Museum, responding to the campus and local community. The exhibition is both a reflection and a continuation of Machine Project’s ongoing exploration of collaborative ways of working. While in residence, Allen will inhabit the Tang in multiple ways: the gallery will be augmented with a theater and Machine Project offices, the elevator will become a listening station for the *Field Guide to Poets of the Machine Project Region*, and Allen himself will camp in a tent on the roof.

"We are delighted to welcome Mark Allen back to Skidmore College and to the Tang, and that he and his collaborators will engage with our visitors in new and exciting ways," said Dayton Director Ian Berry. "Machine Project’s approach of creating new work with people on campus and from the surrounding community fits perfectly with the Tang's long-standing tradition of experimentation and participation. That all of this will happen with a Skidmore alumnus makes our fifteenth anniversary year all the more special."

"Mark Allen has been a wonderful collaborator because he brings to the museum a kind of radical openness that allows for all kinds of risk-taking," said Rachel Seligman, Assistant Director for Curatorial Affairs. "To take one example, he will be converting a section of a gallery into his office space—and he will be working there during regular museum hours. In doing so, he not only makes himself accessible to whatever public encounter will come his way, but he also

collapses the traditional museum boundaries of private office space and public gallery space, thus foregrounding the participatory nature of his art-making practice."

Mark Allen is an artist, educator, and curator based in Los Angeles. He is the founder and executive director of Machine Project, a nonprofit performance and installation space investigating art, technology, natural history, science, music, literature, and food in a modest storefront gallery in the Echo Park neighborhood of Los Angeles. Machine Project also operates as an informal team of artists who collaborate to present work at locations ranging from beaches to museums to parking lots. Under his direction, Machine has produced shows with institutions such as the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Denver, the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, and the Walker Museum in Minneapolis. He has produced over 500 events in Los Angeles at the Machine Project storefront space, and recently concluded a yearlong artist residency addressing topics of public engagement at the Hammer Museum at UCLA.

Prior to opening Machine, Allen was involved with several alternative arts groups as a curator, board member, and director, and co-founded the Los Angeles new media collective c-level. He has taught at the California Institute of the Arts and the University of California San Diego, and is currently an Associate Professor of Art at Pomona College, where he teaches, "Foundations of 2D design," "Junior/Senior Art seminar," "Performance in Contemporary Art," and "Artist as Curator, Artist as Organizer." He serves on the Board of Directors of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts in New York, and served for three years as a member of the Artist Advisory Board of the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles. Allen received his MFA from the California Institute of the Arts in 1999.

Machine Project — The Platinum Collection (Live by Special Request) is organized by Rachel Seligman, Assistant Director for Curatorial Affairs, in collaboration with Machine Project, and is supported by the Friends of the Tang.

EVENTS

Krystal Krunch Presents Seeing Beyond Speech – Mind Reading Workshop

Saturday, September 19, 1:00 p.m.

Space limited; reservations required. Call 518-580-8080.

"Reading" *Affinity Atlas* with Krystal Krunch

Saturday, September 19, 3:30 p.m.

Krystal Krunch (a.k.a. Asher Hartman and Haruko Tanaka) is a duo of artist intuitives who see and respond to energy in the body, the psyche, architectural spaces, and artworks. They are dedicated to using intuitive reading to help people come in contact with their highest and best potential. At 1:00 p.m. they lead *Seeing Beyond Speech*, a workshop to teach participants how to give and receive an intuitive reading. At 3:30 p.m. Krystal Krunch will move into the *Affinity Atlas* exhibition at the Tang, and along with workshop volunteers, they will "read" individual artworks as well as the exhibition as a whole.

Gallery Talk and Dunkerley Dialogue

With Mark Allen, Rachel Seligman, and Beck Krefling

Thursday, September 24, 5:30 p.m.

Join us for a discussion exploring ideas of art and social engagement in the exhibition *Machine Project: The Platinum Collection — Live by Special Request*. Gallery talk will be with Mark Allen, artist, Machine Project director, and a 1993 Skidmore graduate; and Rachel Seligman, Assistant Director of Curatorial Affairs at the Tang. The Dunkerley Dialogue will follow the gallery talk and include Allen, Seligman, and Beck Krefting, assistant professor of American Studies at Skidmore College. Dunkerley Dialogues are made possible by a generous gift from Michele Dunkerley, Skidmore College Class of 1980.

Mr. Akita

Saturday, September 26, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 27, 1:30 p.m.

Starring artist, comedian, and performer Cliff Hengst, and written and directed by Asher Hartman, *Mr. Akita* is a one man play in which a Borscht Belt comedian and an op-art painting go “head to façade” in a reminiscence of love, sex, art, failure, and the sublime. Organized as part of the Tang exhibition. Limited seating.

A Readers Chorus

Thursday, October 1, 8:00 p.m.

Haruko Tanaka is a member of the Los Angeles Reader’s Chorus and wrote *Japanese George Clooney takes American Ken Watanabe to get sushi*, which was performed by the Reader’s Chorus earlier this year. In addition to bringing several L.A. Readers Chorus pieces to be practiced and performed (*Japanese George Clooney takes American Ken Watanabe to get sushi*, *Reader’s Radio Calisthenics*, and *Reading the Dictionaries*), Haruko will be leading workshops to facilitate the creation of new material written by students at Skidmore College and the Saratoga Springs community. Interested in joining the Chorus? Call curator Rachel Seligman at 518-580-8324 before Sept. 19.

October Poem 2015

Tuesday, October 13; Wednesday, October 14; Thursday, October 15; 12:30 p.m.

Joshua Beckman will give lunchtime poetry performances that will include readings from poems in progress and poetry walks with improvised poems in response to the landscape and architecture of Skidmore College.

15th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, October 17, 4:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Join us for a series of events in celebration of the museum’s 15th anniversary. The evening kicks off with a conversation exploring the Tang, its history, and the idea of a teaching museum with Dayton Director Ian Berry, the Tang’s founding director Charlie Stainback, and former director John Weber. The discussion is followed by the release of *Everything is Connected*, a book about the Tang’s history, special performances by poet Joshua Beckman and artist Kamau Amu Patton, and a reception for the exhibitions *Affinity Atlas*, *Machine Project — The Platinum Collection (Live by Special Request)*, and *Dismantling the House*.

Themed Nomad No Plastic Form

Saturday, Oct. 17, 6:00 p.m.

As part of the Tang's 15th Anniversary Celebration, artist Kamau Amu Patton gives a site-specific sound performance for voice and electronics exploring themes of language, machine communication, and sonic augmentation.

Curator's Tours

Tuesday, October 20, noon

Friday, October 23, noon

Curator's Tour of *Machine Project — The Platinum Collection (Live by Special Request)* with Mark Allen, artist, director of Machine Project, and 1993 Skidmore alum, and Rachel Seligman, Assistant Director of Curatorial Affairs

EVERYTHING

Saturday, October 24, 2:00 p.m.

Artist Dawn Kasper will be working in the *Machine Project* gallery from October 20 through 24, developing a piece that will culminate with a final public performance on October 24 at 2 p.m.

ReVerberancias

Thursday, October 22, 7:30 p.m.

Carmina Escobar is an experimental vocal performer and sound artist whose piece *ReVerberancias* will use the resonance of the space, the performers/audience voices, different array of microphones and digital/analog feedback to explore the physical experience of resonance and reverberation of sound through the body.

Massagem Sonora

Monday, October 26, 11:00 a.m., Case Campus Center

Carmina Escobar, an experimental vocal performer, will give participants a "sonic massage," an experiment in intimacy and bodily resonance. Escobar improvises with voice applied to participants' bodies to create each individual's unique resonant geography.

Music for Mineral Springs: A Tasting of Local Spring Waters with Musical Accompaniment

Saturday, November 7, 2:00 p.m.

A concert of sensory pairings with water and sound. Students from the Skidmore College class Community Engagement, Education, and the Arts, and their professor Adam Tinkle, will work with artist Chris Kallmyer to create a multi-movement work that examines regional springs through music, light, and water. It will be casual, richly sonic, and a bit wet. Limited seating.

deepdeepbodygl!tter

Friday, November 13, 7:30 p.m.

Open rehearsal, Thursday, November 12, 7:30 p.m.

deepdeepbodygl!tter is a collaboratively created performance for the Tang Teaching Museum by choreographer and performance artist Hana Van Der Kolk featuring a diverse cast of female-identified student performers. It is a celebration, a party, a mess, and an embodiment of questions of intimacy, borders, difference/otherness, sexuality, and collectivity. The performance will include an auto-ethnographic component, writing, scores, and video that will allow the audience to peek into the intensive process the group underwent for the creation of the work. Limited seating.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Joshua Beckman

October Poem 2015

Joshua Beckman is a poet who splits his time between Seattle and New York. He has published nine collections of poetry and two collaborations with Matthew Rohrer, the poet. Beckman is also an editor at Wave Books, based in Seattle, WA. He has translated numerous works of poetry, including works by Carlos Oquendo de Amat and Tomaž Šalamun. Additionally, Beckman is the recipient of many awards, such as a NYFA fellowship and a Pushcart Prize.

Blurring the line between poet, performer, and artists, Beckman is a frequent collaborator with the Machine Project. Their primary collaboration is The Poetry Phone, an on-going and amorphous idea, which takes on different shapes depending on the institution or location of the work. Although the work is constantly adapting, it is based on the idea that anyone can pick up a telephone and Beckman and other poets will read the listener a poem of his or her choosing.

Hana van der Kolk

deepdeepbodyglitter

Hana van der Kolk is a choreographer, performer, and movement educator focused on combining post-modern dance with conceptual practices. Van Der Kolk's work deals with the relationships between mind/body split, consciousness/thought, and movement/body dichotomies. Her work is known for its site-specific nature and performances range from traditional stages, to galleries, outdoors, and public spaces. She currently works throughout the US and Europe, most frequently in Los Angeles and Amsterdam. Van Der Kolk graduated from Skidmore in 2000, and has since been back as a guest choreographer.

Dawn Kasper

EVERYTHING

Dawn Kasper is a Los Angeles-based performance artist. She strives to break down the boundaries between the artist and the viewer, and the public and private sphere. Kasper is known for inhabiting a space and setting up her "nomadic studio." For the 2012 Whitney Biennial, Kasper occupied a gallery and worked in the space as if it were her personal studio, allowing the public to interact with her artistic process; the title of this piece was, "This Could Be Something If I Let It." Kasper describes her art as addressing "relentless obsessive fascinations with topics such as exposure, process, desire, and meaning. I perform in a calculated yet spontaneous manner, using props to punctuate my actions. Combining slapstick comedy and monologue to emphasize my thoughts and questions about art and life."

Kasper frequently collaborates with the Machine Project; she has been involved in Machine Project's Field Guide to LA. Architecture, Field Guide to LACMA, and numerous other projects. One example from this collaboration was *Le Hunt: Murder in The Museum*, which was a staged murder mystery, to be solved by the audience through a series of clues that are scattered throughout the museum.

Asher Hartman and Cliff Hengst

Mr. Akita

Asher Hartman is an interdisciplinary artist and playwright based in LA. His work explores the self in relation to Western histories and ideologies. It is always experimental and collaborative in nature and he frequently creates site-specific, ephemeral works. Hartman graduated from UCLA with a degree in theater, and a studio art degree from CalArts. Additionally, Hartman is a part of the artist duo, Krystal Krunch, with Haruko Tanaka.

Hartman regularly works with Mark Allen and the Machine Project to create site-specific works and performances. Hartman's most recent work, "Purple Electric Play! (PEP!)," was created for Machine Project's basement theater. It is a non-narrative compilation of numerous types of theater productions. One of the play's goals was to potentially leave the audience confused or unsettled.

Cliff Hengst is a San Francisco-based painter and performance artist. His work is often comical in nature and created in response to both personal and historical inspirations. Hengst's work has been shown at Gallery 16 in San Francisco and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and he also frequently collaborates with the Machine Project. His most notable project with Machine was a two-hour double decker bus tour down the historic Wilshire Boulevard. The tour embarked from the Beverly Hilton, as Hengst's body was "taken over by the soul of Whitney Houston." 'Whitney' reminisces down memory lane on a double decker tour bus and takes one last look at the legendary boulevard of luxury, industry, and Subway sandwiches."

Haruko Tanaka and Asher Hartman: Krystal Krunch

Seeing beyond Speech – Mind Reading Workshop and "Reading" *Affinity Atlas*

Krystal Krunch is an on-going collaboration between Asher Hartman and Haruko Tanaka. They describe themselves as, "a duo of artist intuitives who see and respond to energy in the body, the psyche, architectural spaces, and artworks. We are dedicated to using intuitive reading to help people come in contact with their highest and best potential..." Since their debut in 2007, where they gave 10-minute intuitive readings to gallery visitors in Chinatown, LA, Krystal Krunch has shown in galleries and museums across the United States.

Haruko Tanaka

A Readers Chorus

Haruko Tanaka is an interdisciplinary artist working with film/video, photography, installation, and relational collaborative events and workshops. Much of her work is centered on the idea of the translation and transmission of intangible cultural treasures. Tanaka is currently the artist in residence at the Echo Park Film Center, in Los Angeles. Her work has been shown at a wide range of arts institutions, such as the Japanese American National Museum, Museum of Modern Art, Hammer Museum, and Machine Project, as well as at the Rotterdam International Film Festival and Asian American International Film Festival. Tanaka is part of the artist duo known as Krystal Krunch.

Carmina Escobar

ReVerberancias and *Massagem Sonora*

Carmina Escobar is an experimental vocalist, performer, improviser, and sound and inter-media artist from Mexico City. Escobar's work primarily focuses on the relationship between sound, voice, and the body. She has focused on developing a wide range of vocal techniques, which are present in her creative performances, as well as enhancing her continued exploration of

unconventional uses for the voice. Escobar has performed and presented her own work at festivals, biennials, experimental venues, formal concert halls, and living rooms throughout the Mexican Republic, America, and Europe. She frequently collaborates with a wide range of artists; Escobar is as much a soloist as she is an improviser in group settings. Escobar studied at CalArts, earning her MFA from the Herb Alpert School of Music. She teaches voice arts at her alma mater.

Escobar is a recurring collaborator with the Machine Project. She has done various solo performances, lead workshops, and participated in larger collaborations with institutions, such as the Machine Project's Field Guides series. Escobar is the Machine Project's resident sonic masseuse, which can be described as, "establishing a relationship of discovery between individuals, usually strangers, that allow themselves to be improvised on via voice and facial resonators applied to their bodies to discover their own unique resonant geographies."

Chris Kallmyer

Music for Mineral Springs

Chris Kallmyer is a San Francisco-based artist, with an MFA in music from the California Institute for the Arts. His work focuses on sound and space. His unconventional, musical works use everyday objects and multiple senses such as taste and touch to cause the observer to question his or her physical environment and their presences within it. Kallmyer puts pressure on the traditional audience/performer relationship through his work, which is frequently site-specific, and in non-traditional performance spaces. Kallmyer concisely states his artistic goals in his personal statement, "My work deals with how sound can explore and articulate the dynamic between the natural and the built environment. Working with everyday things like cheese, lawnmowers, sheep or car horns in site-specific contexts, I aim to make pieces that explore the processes, customs, and environments through which humans have altered landscape and place." Kallmyer currently has work at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Museum of Contemporary Art Denver, The Getty Center, Disney Hall, and other spaces throughout America and Europe.

Kallmyer is one of the Machine Project's core collaborators, working as both an artist and a curator of sound programming. One example of a collaboration between Machine and Kallmyer is a project called, FERMENT[cheese]. The event was a combination of concert/presentation/tasting, which explored the art of fermentation. There was a milk-to-cheese tasting, and a talk held by Cowgirl Creamery, as well as an original, site-specific score by Kallmyer, which was inspired by cows grazing and the fermenting process. The experimental ensemble, TempWerks, performed the score. Simultaneously, Kallmyer and Emily Lacy collaborated to create a film about the pace of farm life, which was projected onto the walls of the space.

Kamau Amu Patton

themed nomad no plastic form

Kamau Patton is an interdisciplinary artist based in New York. His work typically examines the intersection between light, sound, and electronics, while looking at themes of folk tales and modern cult doctrines. Patton explores taking apart electronics, manipulating their uses and creating interactive installations, causing the viewer to question the boundaries between real life and the digital (and analog) realm. He has exhibited work in solo exhibitions at the Yerba Buena

Center for the Arts, San Francisco; Queens Nails Annex, San Francisco; and Machine Project, Los Angeles. Patton has worked collaboratively on artists' projects at The Museum of Modern Art, New York and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles.

ABOUT THE TANG TEACHING MUSEUM

The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., is open noon – 5 p.m., Tuesday – Sunday, with extended hours through 9 p.m. on Thursdays during the academic year, and is closed on Mondays and major holidays. A cultural anchor of New York's Capital Region, the institution's approach has become a model for university art museums across the country—with exhibition programs and series that bring together the visual and performing arts with fields of study as disparate as history, astronomy, and physics; one of the most rigorous faculty-engagement initiatives in the nation, the Mellon Seminar; and robust publication and touring exhibition initiatives that extend the institution's reach far beyond its walls. The Tang hosts some 40,000 visitors annually, ranging from local students who visit through school programs to museum-goers from around the globe. For more information call 518-580-8080 or visit skidmore.edu/tang.