



**MEDIA CONTACT**  
Connie McAllister  
Director of Community Engagement  
Tel 713 284 8255  
cmcallister@camh.org

**ALWAYS FRESH  
ALWAYS FREE**

**The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is pleased to present  
*Destroy and Rebuild*, a solo exhibition featuring work by Houston-  
based artist Robert Hodge.**

*Robert Hodge:  
Destroy and Rebuild*  
October 3, 2014 –  
January 4, 2015

Opening Reception  
Friday, October 3 | 6:30-9PM

Artist Walk-Through  
Friday, October 3 | 7PM



Robert Hodge, *The Great Electric Show and Dance*, 2013. Mixed media on reclaimed paper. 41 x 54 inches. Courtesy the artist

HOUSTON, TX (September 25, 2014)—  
The Contemporary Arts Museum  
Houston is pleased to present work by  
Houston-based artist Robert Hodge. A musician and visual artist, Hodge has been involved in  
the city's art scene since the late 1990s. His practice has expanded to include site-specific  
sculpture that provides communities with a place to gather and interact. *Robert Hodge:  
Destroy and Rebuild* features fifteen paintings from the past two years, more than half of  
which were created specifically for this presentation. It is the artist's first solo museum  
exhibition.

As a visual artist, Hodge has been in pursuit of the recovery of cultural and political icons that  
have been lost to a fast-paced and ever-changing society. Trained in printmaking, Hodge has  
used strategies employed by graphic designers to convey his messages to combat social and  
political amnesia. Over the past five years, the artist has literally taken the paper—billboards,  
posters, post bills—that clutters the streets of his neighborhood in Houston's historic Third  
Ward and has converted it into material for his own work. Hodge compresses this detritus into  
paintings that transform disparate aims into a cohesive message aimed at social recovery.

**CAMH**



Contemporary Arts Museum Houston  
5216 Montrose Boulevard  
Houston, Texas 77006-6547

Tel 713 284 8250  
Fax 713 284 8275  
www.camh.org

His most recent body of work puts into direct confrontation representations of black people as rendered in the eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth century with the self-determined and defined lyrics of late twentieth and early twenty-first century hip-hop. By superimposing language upon these images, Hodge seeks to interrogate the image against the weight and backdrop of celebrated vernacular. The exhibition's title, *Destroy and Rebuild*, underscores more than just process and emerges as a metaphor for the destruction of archaic perceptions of blackness and the recovery of personal and communal value.

In conjunction with this exhibition will be an off-site presentation of a temporary event space entitled *The Beauty Box*. In 2013, the artist created the first *Beauty Box* by reclaiming a dilapidated section of a building in the Third Ward and transforming it into a community-gathering place. At the site, the artist scheduled a series of events that included film screenings, poetry readings, music, dinners, talks, and exhibitions created for the surrounding community. *Destroy and Rebuild* will feature a second iteration of this site-specific sculpture, this time in Houston's Fifth Ward at 3705 Lyons Street, which will again be activated by a series of programs organized by the artist.

*Robert Hodge: Destroy and Rebuild* is on view in the Zilkha Gallery, October 4, 2014 – January 4, 2015. The exhibition is organized by Valerie Cassel Oliver, Senior Curator at CAMH.

## **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Robert Hodge was born in Houston, Texas and grew up in the historic Third Ward community. He graduated from the High School for the Performing and Visuals Arts in 1998 and attended Pratt Institute in New York and Atlanta College of Art before returning to Houston to pursue his career. Hodge has exhibited across the country, including throughout Texas, and internationally in Nairobi, Kenya. He is the recipient of a 2013 Joan Mitchell Foundation award for painters and sculptors, and this spring he was selected for the prestigious Skowhegan Summer Program.

## **PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

**All events are free and open to the public and take place at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston unless otherwise noted. For complete listings and current information, please check [www.camh.org](http://www.camh.org).**

### **Opening Reception: Robert Hodge: Destroy and Rebuild**

**Friday, October 3 | 6:30-9PM**

Celebrate with us at the opening reception of *Destroy and Rebuild*. Robert Hodge will lead a gallery walk-through of his exhibition at 7PM. Reception with cash bar.

### **Panel Discussion: Robert Hodge, et al.**

**Saturday, November 22 | 2PM**

Join us for a panel discussion on the thematic of Robert Hodge's work with particular emphasis on the context of the South and references to music. Speakers include Hodge, Ryan Dennis (Project Row Houses), Dr. Regina Bradley (whose work focuses on Southern hip-hop), and DJ Flash Gordon Parks, among others.

### EXHIBITION SUPPORT

The *Perspectives* Series is made possible by a major grant from Faye Sarofim and by donors to the Museum's Perspectives Fund: Bright Star Productions Inc., The Brown Foundation, Inc., Dillon Kyle Architecture, Greg Fourticq, Barbara and Michael Gamson, Heidi and David Gerger, Blakely and Trey Griggs, Melissa and Albert Grobmyer, Glen Gonzalez and Steve Summers, Kerry Inman and Denby Auble, Mady and Ken Kades, Poppi Massey, Robin and Andrew Schirrmeister.

### EDUCATION SUPPORT

The Museum receives support for its education programs from: Anonymous, Vera and Andy Baker, Dillon Kyle Architecture, Sara Paschall Dodd, Frost Bank, Louise D. Jamail, Mr. and Mrs. I.H. Kempner III, Kinder Morgan Foundation, Robert and Pearl Wallis Knox Foundation, Leticia Loya, Elisabeth McCabe, M.D. Anderson Foundation, Marian and Speros Martel Foundation Endowment, Andrew R. McFarland, Ms. Louisa Stude Sarofim, Texas Commission on the Arts, Bridget and Patrick Wade, and Elizabeth Satel Young.

Teen Council is supported by Ms. Louisa Stude Sarofim.

### GENERAL SUPPORT

Funding for the Museum's operations through the Fund for the Future is made possible by generous grants from Chinhui Juhn and Eddie Allen, Anonymous, Jereann Chaney, Marita and JB Fairbanks, Jo and Jim Furr, Barbara and Michael Gamson, Brenda and William Goldberg, Leticia Loya, Faye Sarofim, Robin and Andrew Schirrmeister, and David and Marion Young.

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United is the official airline of the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston.

### CAMH MISSION

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is a leading destination to experience innovative art. CAMH actively encourages public engagement with its exhibitions through its educational programs, publications, and online presence. **ALWAYS FRESH, ALWAYS FREE**

### GENERAL INFORMATION

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is located at 5216 Montrose Boulevard, at the corner of Montrose and Bissonnet, in the heart of Houston's Museum District. Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 10AM-7PM, Thursday 10AM-9PM, Saturday 10AM-6PM, and Sunday 12PM-6PM. Admission is always free. For more information, visit [www.camh.org](http://www.camh.org) or call 713 284 8250.