

## SCHOOL DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Congratulations to our graduate students in the 11th Annual Master of Fine Arts Graduation Exhibition! Since its inception, more than 100 students have been featured in this cooperative venture between the Contemporary Art Museum and the School of Art and Art History. Students begin planning their contributions to the exhibition a year prior to the opening. They fully realize the value of this opportunity to work with the CAM professional staff.

For at least three years, these exceptionally imaginative students have engaged our distinguished faculty and endured challenging critique sessions as well as sleepless nights preparing for semester reviews. They have stretched well beyond their initial perceptions of what art could be and its impact on an audience.

The MFA at USF is acknowledged as a premiere program among its peers nationally. Its uniqueness resides in a demanding curriculum of studio practice and inquiry coupled with critical studies seminars in the history of art and elective courses throughout the disciplines of a major research university.

Faculty welcome the prospect to connect with our students, responding to new concepts and working as collaborators as well as conductors to uncover fresh dimensions in the forms, objects, performances and images that are created. Our valued staff provides resolve and ingenuity in solving formidable problems, from bureaucratic labyrinths to one-of-a-kind projects.

The MFA program offers every graduate student the opportunity to work in any medium or materials and to select from among our eminent faculty for directed study contracts. Virtually unheard of at other institutions, this open invitation to explore, experiment and discover, leads to startling and innovative outcomes. The fruit of this philosophy toward graduate art studio studies, along with a varied student body from throughout the nation and beyond, endows this exhibition with the delightful and provocative staging of new art.

The unorthodox nature of many of the works has generated significant consultation and cooperation between the museum staff and our students. We offer our gratitude for assisting these artists in realizing their envisioned realities and developing this exhibition.

And, again, congratulations to our graduating MFA students! The graduate studio experience affords the time and community to expand ideas about art and oneself, and the relationship of the two to the larger world. The University has benefited from your presence and we extend our sincere best wishes.

Wallace Wilson, Director  
USF School of Art and Art History

Joshua Dodhia, *Maquette (a study for monumental objects)*, 2015



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The USF Contemporary Art Museum is proud to showcase *Every Disaster Made Us Wish For More*, the 11th MFA Graduation Exhibition to be presented at the museum. Each spring this tradition animates the end of the museum's season with expectation and enthusiasm, and this year's exhibition, featuring ambitious projects by the 2017 graduates, provides an exciting conclusion to the spring semester.

CAM is a destination where art aficionados, casual visitors, and USF faculty and students can encounter works by a variety of emerging and established artists throughout the year. Yet, when it comes to audiences, we regard our ongoing relationship with the School of Art and Art History and its graduate students as a very special one. CAM provides a critical component to their graduate educational experience, both as a museum that showcases global contemporary art within a two minute walk from their studios and classrooms, and as the site of their capstone experience, the MFA Graduation Exhibition.

In addition to exhibitions, CAM offers opportunities for students to interact with artists, curators and scholars representing diverse perspectives through lectures, colloquia, conversations and studio visits. It also provides directed studies, graduate assistantships and internships that include the expanding realm of social practice, that help students gain confidence and experience critical to the success of today's artists. Through their participation in the annual MFA Graduation Exhibition, students come to understand the dynamic interplay of theory and practice that characterizes professional artistic development and collaboration.

My thanks to the faculty and staff of the School of Art and Art History, particularly Wendy Babcox, Associate Professor and Graduate Faculty Advisor, Maureen Slossen, Program Specialist and Graduate Advisor, and Wallace Wilson, Director, for their ongoing dialogue and dedication that ensures the success of this exhibition.

The faculty and staff of the Contemporary Art Museum are thanked for their collaborative spirit in presenting this challenging exhibition each year, notably Tony Palms, Exhibitions Designer and Coordinator, who is responsible for its design in consultation with each of the students, as well as Don Fuller, New Media Curator, and Madeline Baker, Media Assistant for their generous donation of time and talent in designing the catalogue published by the School of Art and Art History, while guiding the students through the



Walter Eric Matthews, *Palpable Blur*, 2016.

publication process; Peter Foe, Curator of the Collection, and Shannon Annis, Exhibitions Manager and Registrar, for introducing the students to professional standards and policies of accredited museums; Vincent Kral, Chief Preparator, for his management and installation strategies for the individual projects with assistance from staff Ian Foe, Eric Jonas, and Andrea Tamborello and student interns Jing Liu, Alexander Odum and Scott Pierce; Amy Allison, Program Coordinator, and Ashley Jablonski, Assistant, for tracking all the details; David Waterman, Security Chief (and so much more), and staff Faith Gofton, Alex Heron, Leya Ibrahim and Ekaterina Osipova, for their patience and good humor throughout the installation process. Members of the Institute for Research in Art are appreciated for their efforts to realize this exhibition: Margaret Miller, Director; Alyssa Cordero, Mark Fredricks, Sarah Howard, Will Lytch, Noel Smith, Kristin Soderqvist, and Randall West.

I thank all of the graduates for making our final exhibition of the spring so remarkable by sharing the culmination of their research and creative energy, which adds so much to the life of the university and to the Tampa Bay arts community.

Alexa Favata, Deputy Director  
Institute for Research in Art



Bahareh Khoshooee, Video still from *Depends on the Sun's Angle*, 2016

### CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM | Institute for Research in Art

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Cover image: Original design by Kate Kinder, 2017

## 2017 MFA GRADUATION EXHIBITION | March 31 – May 6, 2017

KATE ALBOREO · BENJAMIN WHITNEY BUHL · JOSHUA DODHIA · VICTORIA TRESPANDO ESCOBIO · BRANDON GEURTS  
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