

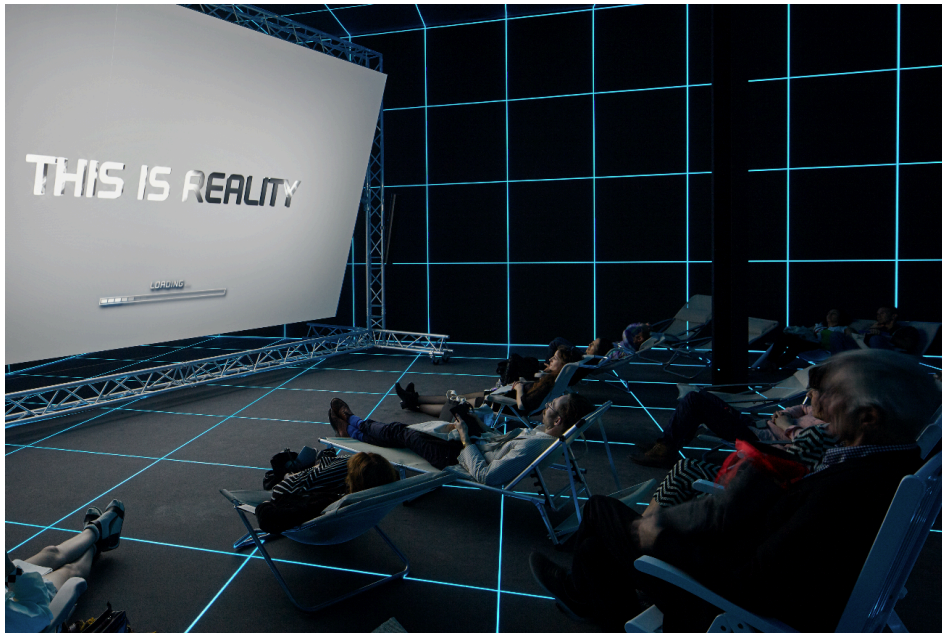
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, February 17, 2016

**THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART, LOS ANGELES (MOCA) PRESENTS
*HITO STEYERL: FACTORY OF THE SUN***

THE U.S. PREMIERE OF THE ARTIST'S LANDMARK VIDEO INSTALLATION

**February 21–September 12, 2016
MOCA Grand Avenue**



LOS ANGELES—The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, presents the U.S. premiere of Hito Steyerl's landmark video installation *Factory of the Sun*. In this immersive work, which debuted at the 2015 German Pavilion at the Venice Biennale, Steyerl probes the pleasures and perils of image circulation in a moment defined by the unprecedented global flow of data. Ricocheting between genres—news reportage, documentary film, video games, and Internet dance videos—*Factory of the Sun* uses the motifs of light and acceleration to explore what possibilities are still available for collective resistance when surveillance has become a mundane part of an increasingly virtual world. This video work tells a surreal story of workers in a motion capture gulag, a forced labor camp where their movements are transformed into artificial sunshine. The light the workers produce is a metaphor for the light emitted from digital screens and electromagnetic frequencies used to transmit information around the globe.

In *Factory of the Sun*, Steyerl presses at multiple senses of the idea of capture, including motion capture, captivity, and being captured on video. Additionally, viewers are invited to recline on beach chairs and be collectively captivated by the installation. The projection is suspended in a room lined with a grid of glowing blue light, reminiscent of the compressed virtual spaces of early video games. In the video's whirling narrative, workers attempt to escape the gulag, which turns out to be part of an elaborate video game. A narrator named Yulia, who is also the video game's

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programmer, slowly reveals the situation in a deadpan voiceover. Reality and fiction intertwine as the structure of the video game crosses with Yulia's actual biography. Her story of migration begins in the Soviet Union, where members of her family were persecuted, and extends to a basement in Canada, where her brother's exuberant Internet dance videos became a global viral sensation and inspired fans to create a multitude of anime replicas. These anime dancers form a revolutionary, multilingual group that has the power to bend light; their subversive actions suggest possible forms of resistance to being captured. A deceptive news reporter, hackers, and the artist herself (wearing flip-flops and with her hair in a bun) also make appearances, further complicating the boundaries between what is real and what is imagined. Vacillating between the playful and the ominous at every turn, Steyerl uses light in this work—both as a metaphor and through the virtual reality-like grid of the installation—to suggest an ambiguous relationship between freedom and captivity in our technologically mediated age.

Hito Steyerl (b. 1966) lives and works in Berlin. Steyerl's prolific filmmaking and writing occupies a highly discursive position between the fields of art, philosophy, and politics, constituting a deep exploration of late capitalism's social, cultural, and financial imaginaries. Her films and lectures have increasingly addressed the presentational context of art, while her writing has circulated widely through publication in both academic and art journals, often online. She has had solo exhibitions at Artists Space, New York (2015); Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane, Australia (2015); Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, The Netherlands (2014); ICA, London (2014); Künstlerhaus Stuttgart, Germany (2014); Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (2013); the Art Institute of Chicago (2012); E-flux, New York (2012); Chisenhale Gallery, London (2010); Neuer Berliner Kunstverein (2009); and Moderna Museet, Stockholm (2008). Group exhibitions include the German Pavilion, 56th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy (2015); Hannover Kunstverein, Hannover, Germany (2015); CAC Vilnius, Vilnius, Lithuania (2015); *Cut to Swipe*, Museum of Modern Art, New York (2014); *The Darknet*, Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen, Switzerland (2015); *Bienal de la Imagen en Movimiento*, Goethe-Institut, Buenos Aires, Argentina (2014); *The Way of the Shovel: Art as Archaeology*, MCA Chicago; *Nine Artists*, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (2014); *Bergen Triennial*, Bergen, Norway (2013); Venice Biennale (2013); Taipei Biennial; Gwangju Biennial (2010); *documenta 12*, Kassel, Germany (2007); and *Manifesta 5*, San Sebastian, Spain (2004). Current exhibitions include a survey show at Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid (2015) and her first solo exhibition in Los Angeles at The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (2016).

Hito Steyerl: Factory of the Sun is organized by MOCA Assistant Curator Lanka Tattersall.

Ongoing support for all exhibitions at MOCA is underwritten by the MOCA Fund for Exhibitions.

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Image credit: Hito Steyerl, *Factory of the Sun* at the 2015 Venice Biennale, German Pavilion, 2015, single-channel HD video, with color and sound, in an architectural environment, 22:56 minutes, image CC 4.0 Hito Steyerl, photo by Manuel Reinartz

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MOCA Grand Avenue, Ahmanson Auditorium

INFO: 213/621-1741 or visitorservices@moca.org

FREE; priority entry for MOCA members

ARTISTS ON ARTISTS: WU TSANG

Thursday, July 28, 7pm

MOCA Grand Avenue, Ahmanson Auditorium

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THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART, LOS ANGELES (MOCA)

About MOCA: Founded in 1979, MOCA's vision is to be the defining museum of contemporary art. In a relatively short period of time, MOCA has achieved astonishing growth with three Los Angeles locations of architectural renown; a world-class permanent collection of more than 6,800 objects, international in scope and among the finest in the world; hallmark education programs that are widely emulated; award-winning publications that present original scholarship; groundbreaking monographic, touring, and thematic exhibitions of international repute that survey the art of our time; and cutting-edge engagement with modes of new media production. MOCA is a not-for-profit institution that relies on a variety of funding sources for its activities.

Hours: MOCA Grand Avenue (located at 250 South Grand Avenue in Downtown Los Angeles) is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11am to 6pm; Thursday from 11am to 8pm; Saturday and Sunday from 11am to 5pm; and closed on Tuesday. The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA (located at 152 North Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012) has the same hours as MOCA Grand Avenue during exhibitions. MOCA Pacific Design Center (located at 8687 Melrose Avenue, West Hollywood, CA 90069) is open Tuesday through Friday from 11am to 5pm; Saturday and Sunday from 11am to 6pm; and closed on Monday. Please call ahead or go to moca.org for the latest exhibition schedule for all locations. The MOCA Store at MOCA Grand Avenue (located at 250 South Grand Avenue) is open Monday through Wednesday and Friday from 10:30am to 5:30pm; Thursday from 10:30am to 8:30pm; and Saturday and Sunday from 10:30am to 6:30pm.

Museum Admission: General admission is free for all MOCA members. General admission is also free for everyone at MOCA Grand Avenue and The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA on Thursdays from 5pm to 8pm, courtesy of Wells Fargo. General admission is always free at MOCA Pacific Design Center. General admission at MOCA Grand Avenue and The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA is \$12 for adults; \$7 for students with I.D. and seniors (65+); and free for children under 12.

More Information: For 24-hour information on current exhibitions, education programs, and special events, call 213/626-6222 or access MOCA online at moca.org.

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