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MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

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MCA DENVER PRESENTS *RELATED* BY ANTHONY GOICOLEA IN THE PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY

DENVER, February 2, 2009 — MCA DENVER is honored to announce the opening of Anthony Goicolea's *Related* in the Laura & David Merage Foundation Photography Gallery. The exhibition opens February 17, 2009 and runs through June 28, 2009. A public reception will be held on Friday, February 20 from 6-10pm. This exhibition was curated by Cydney Payton, who comments, "Goicolea is a archivist of sorts. He offers us a conceptual library, a catalog of the strangeness of identity. For Goicolea, concepts converge with reality through process. His use of photography and drawing as mediums engender questions about the relationship between the authentic and the constructed. To curate such work required letting go into the dialog with the artist. This scenario extended the nature of identity into the public forum of presentation."

Through his new body of work, *Related*, Anthony Goicolea explores his identity as a first-generation Cuban-American. Drawings, photographs, and installations, based on portraits of relatives he may not have met, speak of his attempt to retrace his origins and become familiar with the faces of people whose traits he shares. Images of empty seats at dinner tables are symbolic of those who are missing and extend an invitation to rejoin the family circle.

As in Goicolea's earlier work, the question of personal identity is a central point of investigation. While previous photographs explore themes of androgyny, puberty, and homosexuality—often with a good dose of humor—his new body of work has a more solemn tone. Character play and staged self-portraits in the vein of artists like Cindy Sherman (born 1954) and Justine Kurland (born 1969) have given way to questions of belonging, social environments and their influence on personal histories.

For *Related*, Goicolea took family portraits of his Cuban relatives and paired them with drawings he made to look like negative film images of the photographs. Displaying them side-by-side, he creates haunting diptychs that question the concept of original and reproduction. Evoking the appeal of early photography, nostalgia for a distant time and place finds expression in the medium chosen by the artist. Through drawings of family portraits in bottles placed atop a seawall recreated in the gallery, Goicolea sends fragile messages across real and figurative barriers.

Anthony Goicolea was born in Atlanta, Georgia in 1971. He lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. He holds an MFA from Pratt Institute of Art, New York, NY; a BFA in Drawing and Painting and a BA in Art History from The University of Georgia, Athens. His work is in numerous private and public collections, including Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY; The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; and The Guggenheim Museum of Art, New York, NY. Among many group and solo exhibitions are *Almost Safe*, Postmasters Gallery, New York, NY (2007); *International Video Art Exhibition*, Today Art Museum, Beijing, China (2007); *The Septemberists*, Aurel Scheibler Gallery, Berlin, Germany (2006).

MCA DENVER OPEN TO ALL
WHAT'S IT TO YOU?



Above: Anthony Goicolea. *Supper*, 2008, diptych (detail, left panel), graphite drawing and acrylic on mylar, each panel 42 x 80 in (106.7 x 203.2 cm). Courtesy Sandroni.Rey Gallery, Los Angeles, CA.



Above: Anthony Goicolea. *Supper*, 2008, diptych (detail, right panel), C-print, each panel 42 x 80 in (106.7 x 203.2 cm). Courtesy Sandroni.Rey Gallery, Los Angeles, CA.

Currently on View

Anthony Goicolea: *Related*
February 17– June 28, 2009
Laura & David Meraige Foundation Photography Gallery

Shark's Ink: *The Legend of Bud Shark and his Indelible Ink*
February 3, 2009 – June 28, 2009
Joseph Crescenti Family Paper Works Gallery

Ana Maria Hernando: *La Montaña*
Artist-in-Residence
January 27, 2009 – April 19, 2009
Project Gallery

Yang Fudong: *City Light*
January 13, 2009 – May 10, 2009
Lu & Chris Law New Media Gallery

Jonas Burgert
October 7, 2008 – March 1, 2009
Promenade Space

Damien Hirst
October 7, 2008 – August 30, 2009
Large Works Gallery

About MCA DENVER

Following the European tradition of the Kunsthalle, MCA DENVER is a non-collecting institution acting as an incubator for art and ideas, artistic exchange and dialogue. As Denver's first institution devoted entirely to contemporary art, MCA DENVER inaugurated its new environmentally sustainable facility designed by David Adjaye on October 28, 2007. The 27,000 square foot space, located in the Lower Downtown area, is on track to receive the distinction of Gold level Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). The design of the building supports rather than defines the Museum's mission and demonstrates the Museum's commitment to sustainability. MCA DENVER marks David Adjaye's first public building in the U.S. as well as his first contemporary art museum worldwide.

Continuing our investment in exhibitions of artworks by local, national and international artists, MCA DENVER has five distinct galleries, three spaces for education, multiple sites for special projects/commissioned works and one live art and lecture hall as potential sites for work in all media. These galleries and spaces are envisioned as platforms for multi-level curatorial possibilities. The exhibition areas are thus seen as a curatorial rubric for interaction between artists, works of art, curatorial practice and interpretive dialog.

Location, Hours and Ticket Prices

MCA DENVER is located at 1485 Delgany on the corner of 15th Street and Delgany, DENVER, CO. Tel. (001) 303 298 7554. Museum hours are Tuesday through Thursday 10:00AM to 6:00PM, Friday 10:00AM to 10:00PM and Saturday and Sunday 10:00AM to 6:00PM. The Museum is closed on Monday. General admission to the Museum is \$10.00, senior and student tickets are \$5.00. MCA DENVER offers \$1 off admission to visitors who come to the Museum via public transportation. Children under the age of 5 are admitted free. The first Saturday of every month is Penny Saturday, a day when MCA DENVER invites everyone to take part in the Museum experience for only one cent.

Support

MCA DENVER receives annual support for its exhibitions and programs from members of the Director's and President's Circles, as well as the following generous supporters at the \$5,000 level and above: A.B. Hirschfeld Press, Inc.; AIA DENVER; Caulkins Family Foundation; Colorado Council on the Arts; Compton Foundation, Inc.; Connie Burwell White & William W. White Foundation; Consulate General of the Netherlands; Continuum Partners, LLC; The Denver Foundation; Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado; General Service Foundation; KEW Realty; KeyBank; Komorebi, LLC; Liberty Global, Inc; Liberty Media Co.; Mondriaan Foundation; NSO Press; The Ponzio Family Foundation; Riverfront Park Community Foundation; Room & Board; Sage Hospitality Resources; SCFD; Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation; Three Tomatoes Catering; and US Bank.

For more information about programs and exhibitions please visit www.mcadenver.org or contact Daniele Robson at (001) 303 298 7554 ex.224 or danieler@mcadenver.org.