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MCA DENVER  
1485 Delgany Denver CO 80202  
(001) 303 298 7554

MCA DENVER PRESENTS ALL NEW WORK BY ADAM HELMS  
IN THE PAPER WORKS GALLERY

DENVER, August 12, 2008 — The Museum of Contemporary Art Denver proudly announces Adam Helms in the Paper Works Gallery, curated by Cydney Payton, Executive Director and Chief Curator of MCA DENVER. This exhibition features newly created gouaches, silkscreens, works of ink on mylar, and a large-scale sculpture. The exhibition opens August 12, 2008 and runs through January 18, 2009. A public reception will be held on Friday, August 15 from 6-10pm. A Logan Conversation featuring Adam Helms, Jane Hammond, Cydney Payton will be held on Tuesday, September 9 from 6:30-7:30pm.

On the edge of what poet Ann Waldman describes as the new rival government, artist Adam Helms works to illustrate the continuum between past and present states of violence, occupation and injustice. Helms uses composite images sourced through the internet and unearthed in library archives to suggest a frontier that is both familiar and distant. His hand is revealed in the work through drawings, thus making personal the interior story of each image. The exhibition of new works on paper and a large-scale sculpture at MCA DENVER – his first solo museum installation – offers archetypes concerning banditry and environments of conflict.

"I think of myself as an ethnographer. I survey and document the iconography, posturing, and symbols of radical political groups and subcultures, but the ones I depict are fictional. I am interested in the ethos of violence, the romanticization of extremist ideology, and linking issues from our political past with contemporary current events. With conceptual and formal ties to an assemblage of source material—photojournalism of contemporary conflict, war films, political propaganda, 19th century American art of the frontier, heraldry—my drawings and sculptures depict a fully-realized yet unfamiliar world populated with empathetic characters and the artifacts of a subcultural pathology. I think of them as constructions, comprised of sources from varying origins. In this way the narrative qualities inherent in my work, are not directed at something specific and illustrative, but are more reflective of a relationship I have to this source material. My work portrays belligerence with a sense of pathos and without a discernable morality. I want the images to be both romantic and subversive; to remain cloaked in such a way that questions are raised within the viewer as to the perspectives on display. Perhaps, in this way throwing into relief the politics we all carry within ourselves, destabilizing the notion of a unified or cohesive identity" ~Adam Helms

Adam Helms was born in 1974. He lives and works in New York City. Helms received an MFA from Yale University, New Haven, CT and a BFA from Rhode Island School of Design, Providence. He has shown in group exhibitions at Ballroom Marfa, Texas; Alexandre Pollazon Ltd, London, UK; Kunsthalle and Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, Vienna, Austria; Galerie Rodolphe Janssen, Brussels, Belgium; and P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, New York, NY among others. He has had solo exhibitions at Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, NY and Sister, Los Angeles, CA. Helms was the recipient of the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Award, and was a recent artist in residence at the Chinati Foundation in Marfa, Texas.



Above: Adam Helms, *Shadow (Portrait of a jihadi)*, 2008, Double sided silkscreen on vellum, 40 x 26 inches, Courtesy of the Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York and Sister Gallery, Los Angeles.

### **Programming Events**

#### **Open Shelf Book Club with Adam Helms – Featuring *The Rings of Saturn* by W.G. Sebald**

Wednesday, August 13, 2008

6PM – MCA DENVER Members Only

#### **Opening Reception**

Friday, August 15, 2008

6PM – 10PM

#### **Logan Conversation**

##### **Featuring Adam Helms and Jane Hammond**

Tuesday, September 9

5:30 to 6:30 PM – Exhibition Viewing, Cocktail Reception & Book

6:30 to 7:30 PM – The Logan Conversation

MCA DENVER's exhibiting artists engage in active discourse with fellow creative minds. Adam Helms, exhibiting artist in the Paper Works Gallery and Jane Hammond, exhibiting artist in the Photography Gallery, will converse with Cydney Payton, Executive Director & Chief Curator, MCA DENVER. Underwritten by Vicki and Kent Logan.

General Public \$20, Members \$10, Space is limited. RSVP to Petra Sertic, 303 298 7554 or purchase tickets online at [www.mcadenver.org](http://www.mcadenver.org)

## **Currently on View**

Trevor Appleson  
April 29, 2008 – August 10, 2008  
Photography Gallery

Susanne Kühn  
May 27, 2008 – September 21, 2008  
Large Works Gallery

Jack Balas  
June 3, 2008 – September 7, 2008  
Project Gallery

Brad Kahlhamer  
June 10, 2008 – September 21, 2008  
Promenade Space

Omer Fast  
July 22 – January 4, 2009  
New Media Gallery

Adam Helms  
August 12, 2008 – January 18, 2009  
Paper Works Gallery

## **Upcoming Exhibitions**

Jane Hammond  
August 19, 2008 – January 4, 2009  
Photography Gallery

Terry Maker  
September 16, 2008 – January 11, 2009  
Project Gallery

Jonas Burgert  
October 7, 2008 – 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.

Since opening, MCA DENVER has welcomed over 36,800 visitors to the new building to experience the Museum's exhibition program. 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 have been 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 dialogue.

## **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 Sundays 10:00AM to 6:00PM. The Museum is closed on Mondays. 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.

## **Support**

The Logan Conversations are sponsored in part by the Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado and St. Mary Land & Exploration, in honor of Tom Congdon.

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

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