

**MCA DENVER PRESENTS *DE GROTE BOODSCHAP (THE BIG MESSAGE)* BY OMER FAST
IN THE NEW MEDIA GALLERY**

DENVER, July 22, 2008 — The Museum of Contemporary Art Denver proudly announces Omer Fast in the New Media Gallery, curated by Cydney Payton, Executive Director and Chief Curator of MCA DENVER. This exhibition features *De Grote Boodschap (The Big Message)*, a looped HD video filmed in 2007 in the Belgian town of Mechelen. The exhibition opens July 22, 2008 and runs through January 4, 2009. A public reception will be held on Friday, July 25 from 6-10pm.

Fast's video moves through the kitchens, bedrooms and living rooms of a Belgian apartment building to offer a glimpse into the private lives of its residents. The narrative suggests the characters' interconnectedness through seamless transitions in time and place. Fast explores how memory, culture, and the media shape perceptions. By exposing differences in private and social attitudes, he raises questions about notions of truth and reality.

"Part of the ethical experience of watching one of Fast's works is discovering the ways in which we have assumed a subject to be too simply a representative of history. Fast warns us that people are too robust to be treated as historical categories, too various to be treated lightly. People are at the same time more than the stories history tells about them... and more than the stories that they have become trapped into telling about themselves... Fast says that "people are traps for history," but history is also a trap for people. Fast's works free his characters from the stories that have trapped them, enabling their details and their gestures to tell other stories." ~Gideon Lewis-Kraus, "The Reanimator, Omer Fast's Virtual Realities", *Nextbook*, April 30, 2008

Omer Fast was born in Jerusalem, Israel in 1972. He lives and works in Berlin, Germany. He holds a BA/BFA from Tufts University/School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA and an MFA from Hunter College of the City University of New York, NY. Selected exhibitions include the 2008 Whitney Biennial Exhibition, The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY; Museum of Modern Art, Vienna, Austria and Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, PA. Fast is the winner of the 2008 Bucksbaum Award.



Above: Omer Fast, *De Grote Boodschap (The Great Message)*, 2007, looped HD video. Production still by Erik De Cnodder. Courtesy of the artist.

Currently on View

Jasper de Beijer
March 11, 2008 – August 3, 2008
Paper Works Gallery

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 – November 16, 2008
Promenade Space

Omer Fast
July 22, 2008 – January 4, 2009
New Media Gallery

Upcoming Exhibitions

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

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

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

Jonas Burgert
September 30, 2008 – January 4, 2009
Promenade Space

Yang Fudong
October 7, 2008 - January 11, 2009
New Media 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 35,000 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

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, Thicket 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.