

NEWS RELEASE

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MARK DION: TROUBLESHOOTING



TAMPA, December 9, 2011—

USF Contemporary Art Museum is pleased to present *Mark Dion: Troubleshooting*, on view January 13 – March 3. Mark Dion creates drawings, prints, cabinets of curiosity, and installations about the discrepancy between perceived knowledge and scientific inquiry. His works address embedded ideologies in history, often personified by famous figures, as well as important social and environmental sites. *Troubleshooting* is a survey of his ecologically-themed works, with a special focus

on Florida. These works, some of which trace the travels of noted American naturalist William Bartram (1739 –1823), range from cabinets of alligator ephemera to a collection of tools for a scientist in the field. Some of the works imagine what Bartram saw and collected in Colonial America in addition to revealing how Dion himself encountered the vestiges of a quickly disappearing natural world. Dion has also created work about horticulturist Henry Perrine, who introduced plants such as agave to Florida's coastal areas. Dion's comprehensive installation, *South Florida Wildlife Rescue Unit—Mobile Unit*, 2008, is an emergency truck for threatened species, replete with safari-like clothing and bait for invasive animal species. Dion's truck would enable activists to rescue endangered flora, but it also displays historical images by American botanist John Kunkel Small (1869-1938), of pillaged orchids, bromeliads, and cacti.

Mark Dion: Troubleshooting is organized by USF Contemporary Art Museum, Tampa, and is made possible by assistance from the Arts Council of Hillsborough County and the Board of County Commissioners

RELATED EVENTS – All events free and open to the public

Opening Celebration

January 13: Conversation with Mark Dion 6–7pm, USF Theatre2, THR

Discussion with artist Mark Dion; Miami Art Museum curator René Morales, who was involved with the realization of Dion's *South Florida Wildlife Rescue Unit*; and USFCAM curator Jane Simon.

Opening Reception 7–9pm, USFCAM

Join us to celebrate the exhibition opening with the artist and curators.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

February 6: Laura Ogden Book Talk

6pm, Tampa Bay History Center, 801 Old Water Street, Tampa

Talk by Laura Ogden, author the new ethnographic study *Swamplife: People, Gators and Mangroves Entangled in the Everglades*. Introduction of the author by USFCAM curator Jane Simon. Co-sponsored by the Tampa Bay History Center, and the USF Anthropology Department.

February 10: Studying People, Places, and Systems: Ecology and Academic Pursuits

10am–Noon, USF School of Music Concert Hall, MUS

This colloquium will feature artist Mark Dion; Amelia Shevenell, Assistant Professor of Geological Oceanography, USF College of Marine Science; and Christian Wells, Associate Professor of Anthropology, and Director of the USF Office of Sustainability. Moderated by USFCAM curator Jane Simon.

February 10: SYCOM: Music for Troubleshooting 7–9pm, USFCAM

“Music for Troubleshooting” is a two-hour concert of electronic music created in response to the exhibition, *Mark Dion: Troubleshooting*. SYCOM composers worked in groups to create music to be heard in conjunction with the art that inspired it.

ART THURSDAYS

February 16: Gallery Talk & Scavenger Hunt 6–8pm, USFCAM

Enjoy CAM after dark with a gallery talk by curator Jane Simon, a scavenger hunt, refreshments, and a DJ. This fun and exciting event makes the art of looking and seeing a game.

March 1: Student Research Showcase 6–8pm, USFCAM

CAM stays open late for USF students to give brief presentations of their research on Florida’s history and environment in response to *Mark Dion: Troubleshooting*.

MUSEUMS HOURS + ADMISSION

Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 1-4pm. Closed Sunday and University holidays.

CAM Closed December 11, 2011–January 12, 2012 for holidays and installations.

CAM Closed January 16, 2012 for Martin Luther King Holiday.

Admission to the Museum is free; USF parking permit (\$5.00) or pay-per-space parking required.

The Institute for Research in Art is recognized by the State of Florida as a major Cultural Institution and receives funding through the State of Florida, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and the National Endowment for the Arts. USFCAM is accredited by the American Association of Museums.

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