

PRESS RELEASE

**ARTISTS SHEZAD DAWOOD, THE OTOLITH GROUP AND MATTI BRAUN
IMAGINE “A LOST FUTURE” IN NEW RUBIN MUSEUM EXHIBITION**

***Opening February 23, the rotating three-part exhibition begins with
Dawood’s immersive VR work “Kalimpong”***

Sharelines:

Contemporary artists imagine #ALostFuture in @RubinMuseum exhibition opening 2/23



Travel to #Kalimpong via #VR with immersive work by Shezad Dawood @RubinMuseum #ALostFuture

New York, NY (January 31, 2018) — Award-winning contemporary artists Shezad Dawood, Matti Braun, and the Otolith Group dissect layers of time in “A Lost Future,” a three-part exhibition opening February 23, 2018, at the Rubin Museum of Art. The exhibition features art from an evocative range of mediums, including a virtual reality experience, a newly commissioned moving-image work, and an immersive lake installed in the Museum that visitors can traverse. By challenging existing histories and considering speculative futures, the artworks and the exhibition are part of the Rubin Museum’s 2018 thematic exploration of “The Future.”

While works from all the artists will be on view for the entire exhibition, each one will be featured individually in the gallery’s central cove on a rotating basis, beginning with Dawood’s interactive VR work “Kalimpong,” from February 23–May 21, 2018. The VR experience allows a visitor, aided by a gallery guide, to virtually travel from the mythic Himalayan Hotel into the mountains, an adjacent monastery, and beyond. Timed tickets will be required for the experience. From June 1–September 17, 2018, the Otolith Group will present a newly commissioned film centered on Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore’s art school at Santiniketan in Bengal, India, as well as earlier works that bring to light lesser-known histories. Braun’s “R.T., S.R., V.S.” will transform the gallery into an immersive lake that visitors can traverse beginning on October 5, 2018.

All the featured artists apply an investigative, rhizomatic approach to mining the past in order to broaden the possibilities for what is yet to come. Dawood, the Otolith Group, and Braun apply these ideas by focusing on the history of Bengal, bringing together research, stories, narratives, and biographies to open up new considerations about this culturally rich region, divided in the partition of 1947 into the Indian state of West Bengal and East Pakistan (which was liberated to become present-day Bangladesh in 1971). The alternative histories suggested in “A Lost Future” transcend space, time, and cultures, disrupting conventional hierarchies and

a linear sense of time. Themes of virtuality, modernity, and world-making through rich storytelling are central to the exhibition.

“These artists are challenging received cultural and political histories of Bengal,” said Beth Citron, curator. “Each brings new, rigorous research and knowledge production, as well as visual acumen, to illuminate the potential futures of Bengal in relation to critical moments in its luminous past at the forefront of visual arts, literature, cinema, and education in South Asia and globally.”

Artwork highlights:



Shezad Dawood (b. 1974, London); Stills from Kalimpong, 2016; VR; © Shezad Dawood; courtesy of Timothy Taylor, London/New York

Matti Braun (b. 1968, Berlin); Untitled; 2017; concrete, ironoxide pigments, varnished steel; 27.8 × 23.8 × .6 in. (70.61 x 60.45 x 1.52 cm); courtesy of BQ, Berlin; Photo: Lothar Schnepf, Cologne

In addition to the works on view, the exhibition will include a library highlighting the artists’ research-based practices, inviting visitors to consider the references, inspirations, and conceptual threads in the exhibition. “A Lost Future” will be also accompanied by an audio tour, public programming, and a publication in fall 2018, documenting all three rotations of the exhibition.

The exhibition is part of the Rubin’s yearlong exploration of “The Future,” bringing together programs, exhibitions, and experiences that invites visitors to consider a future that isn’t fixed but fluid.

“Art experiences are a powerful tool for grappling with the issues of our time. From past to present, humans have been facing the future, vacillating between hope and anxiety,” said Jorrit Britschgi, the Museum’s executive director. “In 2018, the Rubin Museum will invite visitors to catch a glimpse of a different notion of the future and time.”

“A Lost Future” is supported by Rasika and Girish Reddy, and by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council. Additional support has been provided by Amita and Purnendu Chatterjee, and contributors to the 2018 Exhibitions Fund.

About Beth Citron

Beth Citron is the Curator, Modern and Contemporary Art, at the Rubin Museum of Art. Her exhibitions for the Rubin Museum have included “Chitra Ganesh” (2018), “Henri Cartier-Bresson: India in Full Frame” (2017), “Genesis Breyer P-Orridge: Try to Altar Everything” (2016), “Francesco Clemente: Inspired by India” (2014), “Witness

at a Crossroads: Photographer Marc Riboud in Asia” (2014), and the three-part exhibition series "Modernist Art from India" (2011–13). She completed a Ph.D. in the History of Art at the University of Pennsylvania, and has taught in the Art History Department at New York University, from which she also earned a B.A. in Fine Arts.

About Shezad Dawood

Shezad Dawood works across film, painting, and sculpture to juxtapose discrete systems of image, language, site, and narrative, using the editing process as a method to explore meanings and forms between film and painting. His practice often involves collaboration, working with groups and individuals across different disciplines. These networks map across geographic borders and communities and are particularly concerned with acts of translation and performance.

Dawood was born in London in 1974 and trained at Central St Martins and the Royal College of Art before undertaking a Ph.D. at Leeds Metropolitan University. Dawood is a research fellow in experimental media at the University of Westminster. He lives and works in London.

About the Otolith Group

The Otolith Group was founded in 2002 and consists of Anjalika Sagar and Kodwo Eshun who live and work in London. During their longstanding collaboration the Otolith Group have drawn from a wide range of resources and materials. They explore the moving image, the archive, and the sonic and the aural within the gallery context. Their work is research based and in particular has focused on the essay film as a form that seeks to look at conditions, events, and histories in their most expanded form. The Otolith Group have exhibited, installed, and screened their works nationally and internationally. A wide range of museums, public and private galleries, biennials, foundations, and other institutions have commissioned the artists to develop and exhibit their artworks, research, installations, and publications. In 2010 the Otolith Group was nominated for the Turner Prize.

About Matti Braun

Matti Braun’s work investigates the unexpected, often little-known effects of cross-cultural dynamics, making visible patterns of artistic migrations and cultural misrecognitions. The artist’s exhibitions have often been organized around a specific example of such appropriation, taking, for instance, an elaborate web of interdisciplinary associations spun around the Indian physicist Vikran Sarabhai, including Mahatma Gandhi, Le Corbusier, the development of the Indian space program, the Ulm School of Design, and Lynda Benglis, as a point of departure for displays that included textile works, objects, photographs, and large-scale installations. Braun’s work is characterized by a constant negotiation between concrete references and general allusions, between poetic ephemerality and an uncanny sense of visceral immediacy.

About the Rubin Museum of Art

The Rubin Museum of Art is an arts oasis and cultural hub in New York City’s vibrant Chelsea neighborhood that inspires visitors to make powerful connections between contemporary life and the art and ideas of the Himalayas, India, and neighboring

regions. With a diverse array of thought-provoking exhibitions and programs—including films, concerts, and on-stage conversations—the Rubin provides immersive experiences that encourage personal discoveries and spark new ways of seeing the world. Emphasizing cross-cultural connections, the Rubin is a space to contemplate the big questions that extend across history and span human cultures.

The Rubin Museum's preeminent collection includes over 3,200 objects spanning more than 1,500 years to the present day. Included are works of art of great quality and depth from the Tibetan plateau, with examples from surrounding regions including Nepal, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, China and Mongolia.

For further information and images, please contact:

Robin Carol

Senior Manager, Communications & Marketing

Rubin Museum of Art

212.620.5000 x213

rcarol@rubinmuseum.org

###