

## ***Be Here Now***

Mike Black, Andrew Boatright, Sandra Erbacher

Exhibition Dates: July 11-August 30, 2014

Opening reception: Fri, July 11, 7-9pm



Mike Black, *Disregard series #2*, 2013,  
PVC, wood, spray paint, 10 x 8 x 15 feet,  
courtesy the artist.

Atlanta—June 12, 2014—[Atlanta Contemporary Art Center](#) (ACAC) announces our summer 2014 exhibition, [Be Here Now](#), which brings together three artists whose studio-based activities and site-specific installations investigate issues of presence, form, and function. **Mike Black** and **Andrew Boatright** are both Atlanta-based sculptors who deftly use a range of materials to challenge gallery environments through issues of gravity and beauty; **Sandra Erbacher** lives in Madison, Wisconsin, where she creates humble objects that exude a sly poetry and situational wariness.

Each artist will present a range of recent works that take advantage of the physicality and scale of ACAC's galleries and adjacent spaces. Mike Black's installation will extend sections of metal ductwork that are part of the gallery's ceiling down to the floor, thereby creating a complex arrangement of functioning ventilation elements. Painted gray to match the existing systems, this object will challenge understandings of what is permanent, temporary, absurd, and confusing. His paintings made with cast concrete are a kind of DIY minimalism, referring to the history of monochromes and art made with common materials.

Andrew Boatright makes provisional sculptures that sit on the floor, lean against walls, and rest on shelves. Built with scraps of wood, metal, paper and plastic, they are covered in unique industrial "goo," a homemade mix of paint and sealant that is the artist's signature brown color. Boatright's objects will be shown in various arrangements that heighten their sense of vulnerability, awkwardness, and isolation, conjuring human, animal, and natural hybrid forms.

Sandra Erbacher is part of a lineage of makers and thinkers who use their art to examine expectations and contradictions that operate at museums and galleries. In this exhibition she presents a large photograph of a cactus [*Monument*, 2014], a reminder of adaptability and the ability to survive in harsh environments. Other works feature incised carpeting and carefully placed vents with neon signage continue her investigations of orientation and invasion.

In *Be Here Now*, viewers will be made to pay attention to many of the objects that institutions often hope they will not notice, such as air and heating ductwork, electrical conduit, water pipes and exit signs. The exhibition title is like an edict from the artists and our Center: be present and sensitive to the conditions that surround you.

**Mike Black** is an Atlanta-based, sculptor, painter, and installation artist. He received his BFA with a concentration in sculpture from Georgia State University. Black works with the Mayor's office of Cultural Affairs Public Art Dept. helping oversee the city's public artworks, and is an art handler with the Souls Grown Deep Foundation, and Facilities Supervisor with DASHBOARD CO-OP. He is also a DASHBOARD CO-OP artist, an Idea Capital grant recipient, has shown all over Atlanta and is represented by Kibbee Gallery.

**Andrew Boatright** is an artist who currently lives and works in Atlanta. He received his MFA in drawing and painting from Georgia State University in 2013. Boatright has exhibited at Art Aqua Miami 2012, MOCA GA, and Twin Kittens Gallery, where his recent solo exhibition, *TRANSMOGRIFICATION*, was recently reviewed in BURNAWAY.

**Sandra Erbacher** is a German artist living and working in Madison, WI and London. She earned her BFA from Camberwell College of Art, London in 2009 and her MFA from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2014. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, at the Chazen Museum of Art, Madison, Mana Contemporary Chicago, Circuit 12 Contemporary, Dallas, The Contemporary, London, Kunstverein Speyer, Germany, Umbrella Gallery, Leeds, and Five Years, London. She is the recipient of the 2014 Chazen Prize to an Outstanding MFA Student, a University of Wisconsin fellowship and the Blink Grant for Public Art 2013 awarded by the city of Madison.

All artists are available for interview and press packets with high res images are available. Contact: Rachel Reese, [reese@thecontemporary.org](mailto:reese@thecontemporary.org) for information and images.

## SUMMER 2014 PROGRAMMING

### JULY

#### Fri, July 11, 7-9pm

Exhibition Opening: *Be Here Now*

Celebrate the opening of *Be Here Now*, and enjoy conversation with exhibiting artists Mike Black, Andrew Boatright, and Sandra Erbacher. Tasty bites provided by Tin Drum Asiacafé.

#### Sat, July 12, 11am-12:30pm

Artist Talk: *Be Here Now*

Exhibiting artists discuss the range of materials and decisions that inform their work and the exhibition, in conversation with Communications Manager Rachel Reese. // Free

#### Thu, July 17, 6:30pm

Studio Artist Talk: Nikita Gale

Studio Artist Nikita Gale discusses her practice and recent work, in our lecture hall. // Free

### AUGUST

#### Wed, Aug 6, 11am-5pm

Exclusive Member Benefit: *15 Minutes* Program

Artists discuss their work and career development for a special *15 Minutes* opportunity with local leaders in the field. To make an appointment: [www.thecontemporary.org/programming/15-minutes](http://www.thecontemporary.org/programming/15-minutes). Each guest will review the work of 4 artists in one hour, 15 minutes each. // Free

Susan Bridges, whitespace

Victoria Camblin, ART PAPERS

Brian Holcombe, Saltworks

Michael Rooks, High Museum

Jennifer Schwartz, Crusade For Art

Anna Walker-Skillman, Jackson Fine Art

#### Thu, Aug 7, 7-8pm

Documentary Screening: *A History of Nexus: How An Artist Coop Transformed Atlanta*

Alexandra Troxell, recent GSU BFA graduate and current ACAC Nexus Archive intern, presents her thesis documentary highlighting the history of Nexus and a selection of its stakeholders from 1973-the early 2000's. // Free

**Sat, Aug 9, 11am**

Contemporary Kids: Summer Sunprints

Children of all ages welcome for a morning of making sunprints on our pavilion in conjunction with our *Be Here Now* exhibition. // Free

**Thu, Aug 14, 7pm**

**Ice Cream Social with Andrew Boatright & Mike Black**

Join exhibiting artists Andrew Boatright and Mike Black for an exhibition tour and some summer ice cream on our pavilion!

**August 22-24**

Patron Artist Group Trip: Rural Studios Projects Tour, Rural Southwest, AL

An Art Trip for our Patron Artist Members: We will visit the sites of prior Rural Studios projects as they celebrate their 20th anniversary this year. This trip will involve a one-two night stay in Greensboro, AL.

For more details contact: Rachel Reese, [rreese@thecontemporary.org](mailto:rreese@thecontemporary.org) or 404.688.1973 x 216

**August 29-31**

art|DBF: ACAC at Decatur Book Festival

*Re-Forma: The Nexus Contribution*

Atlanta Contemporary Art Center presents archival ephemeral material from its 40 plus year history.

*Free Thursdays proudly sponsored by IntownAPARTMENTS.com by Perennial.*

[www.thecontemporary.org/programming/current](http://www.thecontemporary.org/programming/current)

**About Atlanta Contemporary Art Center:**

Atlanta Contemporary Art Center is a non-profit, non-collecting institution dedicated to the creation, presentation, and advancement of contemporary art by emerging and established artists. ACAC creates a diverse cultural landscape for artists, arts professionals, and the art-interested public through its exhibitions, educational programming, and studio artist program. Visit us [online](#) to learn more.

ACAC is open Tuesday-Saturday 11am-5pm, with extended hours on Free Thursdays until 8pm. Admission is \$8, \$5 for students and seniors, free for members and children age 5 and under, and free all day on Thursday. Free parking.