



# FOCUS

**Exhibition Series 2018-19**

MODERN ART MUSEUM OF FORT WORTH

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The FOCUS exhibition series is organized by the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth and features three solo exhibitions each season. Started in 2005, this series is committed to introducing visitors to new and emerging artists who are gaining worldwide acclaim as well as exhibiting esteemed mid-career artists who have previously been under-recognized in the region. FOCUS is international in scope and presents work across all media, celebrating the art and artists of our time.

Be sure to mark your calendars today and join us at the Modern as we toast cutting-edge contemporary art in our community this season!

Curator Alison Hearst with artist Kamrooz Aram  
at the opening of his FOCUS exhibition in March 2018.





## FOCUS: Njideka Akunyili Crosby | Counterparts

December 1, 2018–January 13, 2019

Los Angeles-based artist and 2017 MacArthur Genius Fellow Njideka Akunyili Crosby draws upon her experience of moving from Nigeria to the United States while maintaining ties to her family in Africa and building relationships in America. Layers of paint, fabric, and photographic transfers not only energize the interiors and figures depicted in the artist's works but serve as a metaphor for the complex merging of cultural backgrounds that contribute to Akunyili Crosby's sense of self.

For her FOCUS exhibition, the artist has created a series of visually and conceptually mirrored pairs of paintings. In these detailed images, Akunyili Crosby augments paint with Nigerian portrait fabrics produced for ceremonies such as weddings, burials, and political campaigns. She also applies photographic transfers from Nigerian fashion and society publications that connect traditional Nigerian styles, fabrics manufactured in the Netherlands, and Western trends.

**The exhibition is organized by The Baltimore Museum of Art.**

*As We See You: Dreams of Jand*, 2017  
Acrylic, transfers, colored pencil, and collage on paper  
72 x 60 inches  
Courtesy the Artist and Victoria Miro, London/Venice  
Photo by Brian Forrest



## FOCUS: Dirk Braeckman

January 26–March 17, 2019

The photographs of Ghent-based Dirk Braeckman have a distinct stillness and quietude that counter the whirl of today's visual landscape. Empty, unidentifiable interiors, architectural details, oceans, and partially obscured nude figures are just some examples of the artist's subject matter. Braeckman's deeply gray photographs are often abstracted, contributing to the mystery and intrigue of what his images convey while adding a sense of distance to the intimate interiors and views he depicts.

Challenging the reproducibility of a photographic image, particularly in light of today's vast dissemination of images, Braeckman creates unique prints using analogue processes and physically taxing experimental methods in the darkroom. The individuality of his images and the physical nature of his processes are evocative of painting, as is the rich tactility his unglazed photographs embody.

V.B.-C.N.-11, 2011  
Gelatin silver print mounted on aluminum  
70 7/8 x 47 1/4 inches  
Courtesy the Artist and Zeno X Gallery





## FOCUS: Analia Saban

March 30–May 12, 2019

Los Angeles-based artist Analia Saban takes traditional artistic media, such as paint, marble, and canvas, and pushes their limits in inventive ways that merge scientific experimentation with artmaking. In her *Draped Marble* works, Saban bends slabs of marble to the brink of destruction. Arced over walnut sawhorses, the fractured yet stable marble appears fragile and pliable.

In her new series, Saban uses a loom to weave dried brushstrokes of acrylic paint within the linen's wefts and warps, subverting the custom of paint on canvas to create works that hover between paintings and objects. Often engaging sculpture, painting, photography, printmaking, and textiles in a single piece or series, Saban blurs the distinctions between media, questioning the material and conceptual limits of a traditional artwork while revitalizing the notion of what art, or the process of making art, can be.

Left: *Walnut Wood Circuit Board #1*, 2013  
Laser-sculpted wood  
24 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 35 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> x 2 inches  
© Analia Saban  
Courtesy Sprüth Magers

Above: *Draped Marble (Fior di Pesco Apuano)*, 2015  
Marble slab on steel on wooden sawhorse  
39 x 70 x 36 inches  
© Analia Saban  
Courtesy Sprüth Magers



Artist Terry Haggerty giving a talk to guests at the opening of his FOCUS exhibition in 2013.



## FOCUS Exhibition Series: Shaping the Modern

By engaging with the FOCUS series, Museum visitors are exposed to contemporary art through world-class national and international exhibitions. No other museum in the Metroplex offers the number of shows per season that the Modern allots for emerging artists. It is a series unlike any other in the entire Southwest as FOCUS presents an unparalleled opportunity for young and mid-career artists to have a solo exhibition in a world-renowned museum. At the conclusion of the FOCUS season in the spring, one work or group of works from each exhibition is held for the annual Purchase Meeting. During this event, attendees vote to determine which work will be recommended for acquisition by the Modern, thus contributing to the Museum's permanent collection and shaping its cultural footprint.

**To learn more about how to deepen your relationship with the Modern and the FOCUS program through membership and to be part of the acquisition process, please call Allie Nikolaisen, Director of Development, at 817.840.2177 or e-mail [development@themodern.org](mailto:development@themodern.org).**

## FOCUS Exhibition Series 2018-19 Schedule

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December 1, 2018–January 13, 2019

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The 2018-19 FOCUS Exhibition Series is sponsored by Frost Bank.





The 2017-18 FOCUS exhibition acquisition for the Museum's permanent collection, *Ornament for Extraordinary Architecture*, 2018, by Kamrooz Aram.

Cover detail and above:

*Ornament for Extraordinary Architecture*, 2018

Oil, wax, oil crayon, and pencil on canvas

Three canvases, each 78 x 44 inches

Collection of the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth,

Gift of the Director's Council and Museum purchase, 2018

# The Modern

**MODERN ART MUSEUM OF FORT WORTH**

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