

Mana Contemporary launches Mana BSMT, a collaborative hub for artists, with private and semi-private studios, and an open-plan workspace



Photo by E. Lee Smith

JERSEY CITY, NJ, August 9, 2016—Mana Contemporary launches Mana BSMT, a project designed to support emerging artists. Occupying the entire lower part of Mana Contemporary’s headquarters in New Jersey, half of this 100,000 square foot space is reserved for BSMT and Mana Residencies. The other half is available for rent to outside artists who seek a community experience.

The Residencies

The BSMT Residencies are six-month stints curated by guest artists as part of an experimental initiative to foster collaboration. Participants are encouraged to curate their own programming, shaping the culture of the BSMT.

There are currently three BSMT residencies in progress. One—which began in April and runs through September—was selected by **Z Behl**, a mixed-media artist who has received grants from the Joan Mitchell and Pollock-Krasner Foundations, and was previously in residence at Pioneer Works and the Museum of Contemporary Art Tucson; she was the scenic director for the Oscar-nominated film, *Beasts of the Southern Wild*.

- **BSMT Residency artists curated by Z Behl:** Mia Ardito, Pamela Council, Tucker Elkins, Joey Frank, Cricket Kauget, Olga Sophie Kauppinen, Daniel Kent, Azikiwe Mohammed, Sasha Panyuta, Cody Rinaldo, Alex Schmidt, Tone Tank, Miryana Todorova

Another group, which runs from July until December, was chosen by **Amy Khoshbin**, a Brooklyn-based artist who combines many disciplines: performance, video, collage, costume and sound. Her work has been presented at BAM, Abrons Arts Center, The Invisible Dog Arts Center, The Stone, and festivals such as River to River, South by Southwest and MakerFaire. She has completed residencies at The Watermill Center, LMCC's Workspace Residency 2014-15, Banff Centre for the Arts in Canada, Team Effort! in Glasgow, Scotland, and at the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. She has collaborated with Laurie Anderson, Karen Finley, Tina Barney, and poets Anne Carson and Bob Currie.

- **BSMT Residency artists curated by Amy Khoshbin:** Sarah Anderson, Itziar Barrio, Michael Clemow, Deville Cohen, Adriane Connerton, Tora Lopez, Carl Marin, Trokon Nagbe, Shani Peters, Kenny Rivero, Gabriela Salazar, Amber Hawk Swanson, Yuliya Tsukerman

A specialized group, focused on animated GIFs, which runs from August through January, is led by animation artist **Matthias Brown**, also known as Traceloops. Brown has selected four peers who, like him, have amassed thousands of followers across social media platforms for their internet-based art, and collaborated with major brands and institutions. Brown has worked with, among others: Converse, NBC, Hyundai, The Tate Modern, and MTV.

- **BSMT Residency artists curated by Matthias Brown:** Sam Cannon, Julian Glander, Thoka Maer, Hayden Zezula (Zolloc)

The following group, led by **Sei and Ki Smith of Apostrophe NYC**, a pop-up concept that throws events and shows aiming to bring artists and their works outside of the gallery space, will begin in October and run through April 2017.

- **Upcoming BSMT Residency artists curated by Apostrophe NYC:** Caslon Bevington, Ryan Bock, Morell Cutler, Alana Dee Haynes, Kolter Hodgson, Charlie Hudson, The Love Child, Julia Powers, Bruno Smith, James Reyes, James Rubio

The Mana Residencies Established by curatorial director **Ysabel Pinyol** and curator **Karline Moeller**, Mana Residencies give local and international visual artists the opportunity to work at the organization's prestigious New Jersey headquarters. The annual program provides a complimentary studio for one year, providing five mid-career artists the opportunity to freely develop and expand their practice with the benefits of additional space, a strong community, and ongoing support. Participants are immersed in the art complex, which includes resources such as the Keating Foundry and the Gary Lichtenstein Editions print shop, as well as Mana's art storage, handling, and framing services. Artists-in-residence also receive a strategic introduction to the curators, collectors, and other art world professionals who regularly visit the organization. Our residents are selected from a strong network of like-minded individuals, many of whom choose to continue their stay at Mana.

- **Current Mana Residencies artists:** Alex Kwartler, Maria de Los Angeles, Martin Roth, Anne Vieux

Please note:

BSMT and Mana residencies are invitation-only. For more information and regular updates, visit manabsmt.com.

About Mana Contemporary

Founded in 2011, Mana Contemporary is a leading arts destination dedicated to celebrating the creative process. Headquartered in a former tobacco warehouse in Jersey City, Mana unites artists' studios, exhibition spaces, and ancillary services in a single location, facilitating conversation and collaboration among its burgeoning creative community. Together with its sister campuses in Chicago and Miami, Mana serves as a lively center for all members of the art world. Mana Contemporary is home to the Richard Meier Model Museum, Ayn Foundation, the International Center of Photography, The Florence Academy of Art, Gary Lichtenstein Editions, Eileen S. Kaminsky Family Foundation, Armitage Gone! Dance, Keating Foundry, Shen Wei Dance Arts, Mana Urban Arts Project, and many others. For additional information, please visit manacontemporary.com.