

**MoMA PS1 PRESENTS THE FIRST NEW YORK SOLO EXHIBITION OF
CYPRIEN GAILLARD**

Cyprien Gaillard: The Crystal World

January 20–March 18, 2013

3rd Floor, MoMA PS1

(Long Island City, NY—January 18, 2013) MoMA PS1 presents the first solo survey museum exhibition in New York of Cyprien Gaillard (French, b. 1980), whose presentation includes five major cinematic works and site-specific works made in New York on the occasion of his MoMA PS1 presentation. Organized by Klaus Biesenbach, *Cyprien Gaillard: The Crystal World* is on view on the 3rd floor of MoMA PS1 through March 18, 2013.

Gaillard's work navigates geographical sites and psychological states, addressing the relationship between architecture and nature, and evolution and erosion. Using a variety of artistic mediums ranging from painting and sculpture to photography, film, and video, Gaillard juxtaposes pictorial beauty and the atmospherically lush with elements of sudden violence, destruction, and idiosyncrasy culled from popular culture, pointing to the precarious nature of public space, social ritual, and ultimately the notion of civilization. Combining minimal composition, a poetic visual sensibility, and a youthful, anarchic spirit, Gaillard's work displays a personal reading of landscapes, whether training his gaze upon land art sites, crumbling urban high-rises, culturally entrenched logos, explosive building demolition procedures, or public monuments.

Gaillard is perhaps best known for his his work *The Recovery of Discovery* (2011) at KW Institute for Contemporary Art in Berlin, in which he constructed a pyramid from 72,000 bottles of Turkish Efes beer available for viewers to partake, just walking distance from the Pergamon altar, which was taken by German archaeologists to become one of Berlin's most visited monuments. Enthusiastic visitors scaled Gaillard's new monument, which was immediately structurally undermined as individuals removed the bottles one by one, reflecting the often barbaric displacement of artifacts and ruins that humans impose on a given site once it is assigned value. In *Cities of Gold and Mirrors* (2009), shot in Cancún, Mexico, images of Mayan ruins are interspersed with the golf courses, mega-resorts, and tourists that now saturate the area, as incensed adolescents guzzle tequila with the same elated fervor that characterizes a ritualistic dance performed by a gang member on the ruins of El Rey. Shown for the first time in the U.S., Gaillard's work *Artefacts* (2011) imparts a reflection on the myth of Babylon through scenes from post-conflict Iraq interwoven with images of the ancient civilization's antiquities, none more famous perhaps than the Ishtar Gate, reconstructed in an austere gallery of the Pergamon Museum in Berlin in 1930. Gaillard echoes this anachronism in the artwork's material itself. *Artefacts* (2011) was shot on the artist's cell phone, and the resulting digital video was transferred to 35mm film, in which the work is exhibited as a continuous loop. This scheme highlights the fragility of an outmoded cinematic material, which wears and frays as it is projected over the course of the exhibition period, mimicking the cyclically endless nature of civilizations' periods of growth and decline, and also the artist's fascination in objects that are at once obsolete and eternal.

Gaillard's *Geographical Analogies* (2006 - 2011) series function as a personal, entropic atlas of the world, with composed grids of Polaroids that are placed in visual correspondence with one another, presenting impressionistic inventories of landscapes and decaying architectural structures that connote psychologically, emotionally, and viscerally. The photographs unite disparate sites that share states of physical change over time. Combining elements of the found, the photographic, the cinematic, the architectural, and the social, Gaillard provokes visual or associative connections between ancient ruins and neglected contemporary spaces, attempting to recuperate the past in the name of a devalued present.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Cyprien Gaillard was born in Paris in 1980 and currently lives in Berlin and New York. He has had numerous solo exhibitions, including those at the Fondazione Nicola Trussardi, Milan; Schinkel Pavillon, Berlin (2012); Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris (2011, 2008); the KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin; the Centre Georges Pompidou, Metz; the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh (2011); the Zollamt/Museum für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt, Germany; the Kunsthalle Basel, Switzerland (2010); the Kunsthalle Fridericianum, Kassel, Germany and the Hayward Gallery Project Space, London (2009).

His work has also been shown in several important international group exhibitions, including the National Museum of Art Osaka, Japan (2013); the Kochi-Muziris Biennale in India (2012-13); S.M.A.K. Gent, Belgium; the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago (2012); the Hamburger Bahnhof, Museum für Gegenwart, Berlin; the Mori Art Museum in Tokyo; the 54th Venice Biennale (2011); the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington; the MoMA in New York; the ICA - Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadelphia; the Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art in Rotterdam; the Gwangju Biennale in Korea (2010); the Generali Foundation in Vienna; the Tate Modern in London; the White Columns; and the New Museum in New York; the 3rd Moscow Biennale (2009); the 5th Berlin Biennale (2008); and the Biennale de Lyon (2007).

He has received many honors, including the Preis der Nationalgalerie für junge Kunst (2011) and the Prix Marcel Duchamp from Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris (2011). In 2009 he was an artist-in-residence with DAAD in Berlin.

Organized by Klaus Biesenbach, Director, MoMA PS1, and Chief Curator at Large, The Museum of Modern Art, with Jocelyn Miller, Curatorial Assistant.

SPONSORSHIP

The exhibition is supported by The Contemporary Arts Council of The Museum of Modern Art.

Press Contact:

Rebecca Taylor, (718) 786-3139, rebecca_taylor@moma.org
For downloadable high-resolution images, register at MoMA.org/press.
MoMAPS1.org • MoMA.org

Hours:

MoMA PS1 is open from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Thursday through Monday. It is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. artbook@MoMA PS1 is open from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Thursday through Sunday.

Admission:

\$10 suggested donation; \$5 for students and senior citizens; free for MoMA members and MoMA admission ticket holders. The MoMA ticket must be presented at MoMA PS1 within thirty days of date on ticket and is not valid during Warm Up or other MoMA PS1 events or benefits.

Directions:

MoMA PS1 is located at 22-25 Jackson Avenue at 46th Ave in Long Island City, Queens, across the Queensboro Bridge from midtown Manhattan and is easily accessible by bus and subway. Traveling by subway, take either the E or M to Court Square-23 Street; the 7 to 45 Road-Courthouse Square; or the G to Court Sq or 21 St-Van Alst. By bus, take the Q67 to Jackson and 46th Ave or the B62 to 46th Ave.

MoMA PS1 Background:

MoMA PS1 is one of the largest and oldest organizations in the United States devoted to contemporary art. Established in 1976 by Alanna Heiss, MoMA PS1 originated from The Institute for Art and Urban Resources, a not-for-profit organization founded five years prior with the mission of turning abandoned, underutilized buildings in New York City into artist studios and exhibition spaces. P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, as it then was known, became an affiliate of The Museum of Modern Art in 2000.

Support:

Operations and programs of MoMA PS1 are supported by the MoMA PS1 Board of Directors; the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; Helen M. Marshall, Queens Borough President; Council Member James Van Bramer; The Council of the City of New York; and the MoMA PS1 Annual Fund, Annual Exhibition Fund, and The Student Body. The MoMA PS1 Annual Fund is supported by The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, Union Beer Distributors, Susan G. Jacoby, Mathis Pfohl Foundation, Christina Dalle Pezze, Jane K. Lombard, Andrew Edlin Gallery, Marian Goodman Gallery, Saks Fifth Avenue, and other donors.