



The logo for the Museum of Contemporary Art Tucson features the lowercase letters 'm m o a' in a bold, sans-serif font. The first three 'm's are grey, and the 'o' is red. Below the logo, the text 'Museum of Contemporary Art Tucson' is written in a smaller, grey, sans-serif font.

Museum of Contemporary Art Tucson

On Kindness

A collaborative installation by Jacob Kassay & Kyle Thurman

On Kindness is a two-person exhibition by artists Jacob Kassay and Kyle Thurman. The title for the show is taken from the 2009 book written by Adam Phillips and Barbara Taylor. The artists shared interest in this text - which discusses how one's instincts mediate the vulnerability experienced with 'kindness' and our experiences with others - forms the basis for the project. The show includes new works by each artist along with one collaborative installation, all of which are oriented towards concerns of the book. Phillips and Taylor's provocative thesis circles around the notion that "kindness" (or "caritas") is humanity's hidden, suppressed pleasure and is integrally entwined with our fears and desires in relating to others. As Peter Stevenson wrote in New York Times review:

The punch line of the book is that we are, each of us, battling back against our innate kindness, with which we are fairly bursting, at every turn. Why? Because "real kindness is an exchange with essentially unpredictable consequences. It is a risk precisely because it mingles our needs and desires with the needs and desires of others, in a way that so-called self-interest never can. . . . By involving us with strangers . . . as well as with intimates, it is potentially far more promiscuous than sexuality." By walling ourselves off from our inner kindness, we end up skulking around, hoarding scraps from the lost magical kindness of childhood, terrified that our hatred is stronger than our love.

Jacob Kassay (b. 1984 Lewiston, NY) lives and works in Los Angeles, California. He received his BFA from SUNY, Buffalo and is represented by 303 Gallery in New York. He has had solo exhibitions at the ICA in London, Collezione Maramotti, Reggio Emilia, Italy and The Power Station in Dallas. Kassay's work engages with the language and process of painting, understanding paintings as "objects" rather than "surfaces". His work thus resides between painting and sculpture, continually investigating the notion of objecthood and materiality in his work.

Kyle Thurman (b.1986 West Chester, PA) lives and works between Germantown, NY and New York, NY. Thurman received his BA (Film Studies and Visual Arts) from Columbia University, NY, in 2009 and later spent a year studying with Professor Christopher Williams at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf in 2011. Thurman is currently an MFA candidate at Bard College, NY. The artist works in a range of media, including painting, sculpture, and photography. Recent exhibitions include *Banana Tourist*, Office Baroque, Belgium, 2013; *Stay in Love* (organized by Chris Sharp), Laurel Gitlen & Lisa Cooley, New York, 2014; *That Singing Voice* (organized by Matt Moravec), Galeria Marta Cervera, Spain, 2014.