

SWING HOUSE

MARK de JONG

This city's artistic and architectural identity, as well as its urban constitution, have been fundamentally renovated by the groundbreaking work of Dutch-born, Cincinnati-based artist Mark de Jong. In his hands the traditional family home transcends its traditional function to circulate more freely as a sculptural entity that lives in multiple ways, through multiple means. De Jong also fuses a myriad of backgrounds in his hybrid practice, rekindling art school training in sculpture with an ongoing home restoration business that focuses upon the inventive rehabilitation of dilapidated buildings. At every stage of this process, he pays implicit homage to the integrity of these salvaged objects and structures – honoring the histories they have seen, while simultaneously re-sculpting their contemporary being into renewed possibility. After groundbreaking projects in Northside and Camp Washington that incorporated art elements into the DNA of their respective houses, de Jong envisioned his next renovation as an immersive artwork marrying structure, space and sensory recalibration. The ensuing *Swing House* removed the central staircase of a three-story house, and all the floors it connected, to create a towering chamber with a 30-foot-long rope swing hanging from the ceiling. This exhibition celebrates and extends this landmark achievement, presenting the excised staircase as both an artifact and archive, alongside a series of related sculptures, installations and video works that collectively speak languages of the body, movement, time, and an invigorating disorientation de Jong calls "out-of-squareness." In this show, he also incorporates drawings, toys and home movies of previous residents found in the home, as well as a re-design of the CAC into a collective platform where de Jong re-casts built space into a site for personal and performative flight.

Mark de Jong: *Swing House* is curated by Steven Matijcio and is on view until September 2, 2018. This is de Jong's first solo museum exhibition, and it is generously supported by Stewart Turnbull and Artswave Corporate Sponsor: Macy's. In conjunction with this exhibition, there will be a series of open house viewings of the *Swing House* as well as a bus tour of four of de Jong's projects. Please visit the CAC website or see the front desk for more details.