

## PRESS RELEASE

# Contemporary Arts Museum Houston

## EXHIBITION OPENING A TRAVELING SHOW

October 8, 2016–January 15, 2017

### OPENING RECEPTION:

*A Traveling Show*

Friday, October 7, 2016

6:30–9PM

**IN CONVERSATION:** Matt Keegan and Kay Rosen with Curator Dean Daderko

Saturday, October 8, 2016 2PM



Kay Rosen  
*I'm Going, I'm Going* (1996)  
Graphite on paper  
12 x 22 inches  
Courtesy of the artist and  
Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York

Houston, TX (September 21, 2016)—*A Traveling Show*, the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston's newest exhibition, is an exploration of language, linguistics, and personal communication. At its heart is a selection of mail art exchanged over the past eight years by artists Matt Keegan and Kay Rosen. Their correspondence is augmented by a selection of artworks that includes wall paintings, sculptures, and drawings that demonstrate the artists' unique and individual approaches to language.

Keegan and Rosen are artists of different generations who have known each other for almost a decade. Nearly eight years ago, Keegan initiated a mail exchange with Rosen that continues to this day. Every few weeks a mailed package makes its way from one artist's studio into the other artist's hands; it may contain one or more drawings, collages, photographs, print clippings, and found objects. To date Keegan and Rosen have exchanged close to sixty packages. The items in them constitute an ongoing dialogue, a visual call and response that unfolds between two close friends.

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Matt Keegan  
*Domestic Cat*, 2009  
C-print mounted on aluminum  
9 5/8 × 4 1/2 inches  
Private collection

*A Traveling Show* marks the first presentation of Keegan and Rosen's mail art in the U.S. and follows its recent presentation at the Grazer Kunstverein in Graz, Austria. Its display alongside a selection of works by each artist is an effort to illuminate the effects and resonances of Keegan and Rosen's exchange on their individual artistic practices. Like any good conversation, their visual exchange possesses continuity and surprises—current events, art history, and personal experiences are all fodder for their discussion. Spiked with generous doses of wit and humor, Keegan and Rosen's mail art relates to, reflects, and magnifies concerns found in their individual practices.

United by a common appreciation of language and word play, Keegan's and Rosen's individual works demonstrate their diverse approaches to and use of language. An interest in conversation and social exchange often motivates Keegan's interdisciplinary work. His efforts as an independent publisher have resulted in sought after editions such as *==* and *North Drive Press* that focus on creative dialogues between artists. His artworks often draw our focus towards speech acts and the nearly invisible codes and social contracts they reveal. For more than thirty years, Rosen's artwork has explored language through varied and inventive visual, grammatical, and typographical strategies. Challenging how we read, Rosen employs wit and humor to release new meanings from found words and phrases. Identified by Rosen and redeployed in the form of precise paintings and drawings, these artworks invite viewers to discover meanings anew.

CAMH invites you to join us in investigating this rich and telling selection of artworks and private correspondence. The exhibition is on view through January 15, 2017 and is complemented by a series of programs and lectures, which are free and open to the public.

### ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Matt Keegan (b. 1976. Lives and works in Brooklyn, NY) recently presented a solo exhibition, *Portable Document Format*, at Rogaland Kunstsenter in Stavanger, Norway; the institution co-published a companion publication, titled *OR*, with Inventory Press. His works have been featured in the exhibitions *Reconstruction: Recent Photographs and Video from the Met Collection* and *Storylines: Contemporary Art at the Guggenheim*. Active as an independent publisher, Keegan is the founding editor of *==* and was the cofounding publisher and editor of *North Drive Press* (2004-10).

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Kay Rosen (b. 1943. Lives and works in New York and Gary, IN) grew up in Corpus Christi, TX. Trained in languages and linguistics, Rosen began making art that favored a visual approach to language in the 1970s. Her artwork has been exhibited at the Art Institute of Chicago; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney; and the Whitney Museum of American Art's 1991 Biennial and 2000 Biennial in New York. In 1998-99, The Museum of Contemporary Art Los Angeles and Otis College of Art and Design presented the exhibition *Kay Rosen: Lifeli[k]e*. Regency Art Press published the monograph *Kay Rosen: AKAK* in 2009. Rosen is the recipient of three National Endowment for the Arts fellowships, among other awards.

**PUBLICATION**

*A Traveling Show* is accompanied by an illustrated color catalogue that includes an interview between the artists Matt Keegan and Kay Rosen and Curator Dean Daderko. The catalogue features images of the artists' work, as well as the artists' biographies.

*The catalogue accompanying the exhibition is made possible by a grant from The Brown Foundation, Inc. of Houston.*

**PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

These events are free, open to the public, and take place at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston. Seating is limited. Please check [www.camh.org](http://www.camh.org) for the most current information.

**OPENING RECEPTION**

*A Traveling Show*

Friday, October 7, 2016 | 6:30-9PM

Celebrate the opening of *A Traveling Show* featuring mail art exchanges and artworks by Matt Keegan and Kay Rosen. Beverages will be available for purchase at our cash bar.

**IN CONVERSATION:** Matt Keegan and Kay Rosen with CAMH

Curator Dean Daderko

Saturday, October 8, 2016 | 2PM

Learn more about the exhibition *A Traveling Show* with artists Matt Keegan and Kay Rosen as they discuss their work with the exhibition's curator.

**FAMILY DAY**

Saturday, October 22, 2016 | 1-4PM



Kay Rosen

*Three Ships Passing in the Night, 2009*

Enamel paint on canvas

17 1/8 x 18 1/4 inches

Courtesy of the artist and Sikkema Jenkins & Co, New York

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Come participate in hands-on activities inspired by CAMH's current exhibitions!

**LECTURE**

Thursday, November 17, 2016 | 6:30PM

Join CAMH Curator Dean Daderko and Veronica Roberts, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Blanton Museum of Art at The University of Texas at Austin, for a conversation about mail art and artistic correspondences.

**OPEN STUDIO**

Saturday, December 3, 2016 | 2-4PM

Drop-in, hands-on activities for creatives of all ages and abilities. Come create mail art inspired by *A Traveling Show*—we'll provide the stamps!

**EXHIBITION SUPPORT**

This exhibition is made possible by the patrons, benefactors, and donors to the Museum's Friends of Steel Exhibitions: Director's Circle - Chinhui Juhn and Eddie Allen, Faye Sarofim, and Ms. Louisa Stude Sarofim. Curator's Circle - Dillon Kyle Architecture, Inc., Mr. and Mrs. I. H. Kempner III, Robin and Andrew Schirrmeister. Major Exhibition Circle - A Fare Extraordinaire, Bergner and Johnson Design, Jereann Chaney, Marita and J.B. Fairbanks, Gregory Fourticq, Barbara and Michael Gamson, Blakely and Trey Griggs, George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation, Leslie and Mark Hull, Jackson and Company, KPMG, LLP, Beverly and Howard Robinson, and Michael Zilkha. Perspectives Exhibition Circle - Elizabeth Howard Crowell, Ruth Dreessen and Thomas Van Laan, Glen Gonzalez and Steve Summers, Louise D. Jamail, Leigh and Reggie Smith, Mr. Wallace Wilson, and The Susan Vaughan Foundation, Inc.

**EDUCATION SUPPORT**

The Museum's education and outreach programming is made possible by the patrons, benefactors and donors to its Families of Steel Programming: Vera and Andy Baker, Elizabeth Howard Crowell, Melissa and Albert J. Grobmyer IV, Mady and Ken Kades, Kinder Morgan Foundation, Dillon Kyle Architecture, Inc., Leticia Loya, Marian and Speros Martel Foundation Endowment, Caroline and Greg McCord, Andrew R. McFarland, M.D. Anderson Foundation, Nordstrom, Cabrina and Steven Owsley, Texas Commission on the Arts, and David and Marion Young.

Teen Council is generously supported by Ms. Louisa Stude Sarofim

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and a grant from the Mid-America Arts Alliance.

### GENERAL SUPPORT

Funding for the Museum's operations and programs is made possible by generous grants from Chinhui Juhn and Eddie Allen, Jereann Chaney, Marita and J.B. Fairbanks, Jo and Jim Furr, Barbara and Michael Gamson, Brenda and William Goldberg, Leticia Loya, Faye Sarofim, Robin and Andrew Schirrmeister, and Marion and David Young. The Museum receives partial operating support from The Brown Foundation, Inc. of Houston, the Houston Endowment, the City of Houston through the Houston Museum District Association, the Texas Commission on the Arts, The Wortham Foundation, Inc., and artMRKT Productions.

CAMH also thanks its artist benefactors for their support, including Chris Beckman, Michael Bise, Bruce High Quality Foundation, Mel Chin, Jules de Balincourt, Julia Dault, Trenton Doyle Hancock, James Drake, Keltie Ferris, Mark Flood, Barnaby Furnas, Theaster Gates, Jeffrey Gibson, Camille Henrot, Jim Hodges, Joan Jonas, Jennie C. Jones, Maya Lin, Julian Lorber, Robert Mangold, Beatriz Milhazes, Melissa Miller, Marilyn Minter, Nic Nicosia, Angel Otero, McKay Otto, Joyce Pensato, Enoc Perez, Gavin Perry, Rob Pruitt, Matthew Richie, Dario Robleto, Ed Ruscha, Jacolby Satterwhite, Cindy Sherman, Shinique Smith, Al Souza, John Sparagana, James Surls, Sam Taylor-Johnson, Carrie Mae Weems, William Wegman, Haegue Yang, and Brenna Youngblood.

*United is the official airline of the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston.*

### CAMH MISSION

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is a leading destination to experience innovative art. CAMH actively encourages public engagement with its exhibitions through its educational programs, publications, and online presence.

**ALWAYS FRESH, ALWAYS FREE**

### GENERAL INFORMATION

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is located at 5216 Montrose Boulevard, at the corner of Montrose and Bissonnet, in the heart of Houston's Museum District. Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 10AM–7PM, Thursday 10AM–9PM, Saturday 10AM–6PM, and Sunday 12PM–6PM. Admission is always free. For more information, visit [www.camh.org](http://www.camh.org) or call 713 284 8250.



Matt Keegan  
*Just My Size (Self-Portrait)*, 2016  
Artist's clothes, wire hanger, powder-coated screw, ink-jet print, and mounted oil painting  
40.2 × 17.7 × 1.2 inches  
Private collection