



MINNESOTA
MUSEUM of
AMERICAN ART

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A selection of press images are available upon request; official exhibition photos will be available by May 25.

David Hamlow: Mirror Stage

Minnesota Museum of American Art presents a solo exhibition by artist David Hamlow, who upcycles everyday household trash into large-scale installations.

May 25–July 30, 2017

Minnesota Museum of American Art | The Historic Pioneer Endicott
141 E. 4th Street, St. Paul, MN (entrance at the corner of 4th and Robert Streets)

St. Paul, MN, May 8, 2017—Minnesota Museum of American Art (The M) kicks off the summer arts season with a thought-provoking, occasionally whimsical exhibition of work by Good Thunder, Minnesota-based artist David Hamlow.

Hamlow's *Mirror Stage* is a massive installation that includes watercolors, drawings, found-object sculptures, and geodesic structures made of upcycled paper and plastics, some of which have been donated by residents of Lowertown St. Paul's Pioneer Endicott building. This is an ongoing body of work, which scrutinizes our collective impact on the environment by illustrating in elegant form the vast amounts of waste we produce each day.

The title of the exhibition refers to what Hamlow sees as a key sticking point in dealing with the connection between consumption and climate change. His work aims to make those connections both personal and visible. Hamlow says, "We acknowledge the problem, but we have difficulty in changing it because we fail to identify ourselves within the cause."

The exhibition offers a rich visitor experience with work on varying scales: two large geodesic structures, one of which is nearly seven feet tall; *A Day of Water*, a series of watercolor milk jugs making visible daily household water use; a massive installation of upcycled "bricks," which will meander through the gallery space, growing along with various public art-making projects led by the artist at the museum. A wall installation, *Breath of the Compassionate*, will make use of both found-object sculptures and negative space to create patterning and designs informed by Islamic architecture.

In conjunction with the Twin Cities' annual all-night arts festival, Northern Spark 2017 (June 10 – 11), the M will offer interactive, public art-making, led by Hamlow, around this site-specific project.

Hamlow has shown his work regionally, nationally and internationally, including installations at the Minneapolis Institute of Art; Hutchinson Center for Visual Art; Centennial Galleries, University of Wisconsin, Madison; Eaton-Buchan Gallery, Coe College, Cedar Rapids, IA; the Kala Institute in Berkeley, CA; Dodd Galleries, University of Georgia, Athens; and Ferencvarosi Pince Gallery in Budapest, Hungary. Hamlow is the

Professor of Visual Culture at Minnesota State University, Mankato. He lives and maintains a studio in Good Thunder, Minnesota.

Visit the exhibit page on the M's website to find more information and to see images of the work:
www.mmaa.org/mirrorstage



Key dates:

Press Preview

Thursday, May 25

10 – 11:30 a.m.

Artist and curator will be present and available for interviews. Refreshments will be served.

David Hamlow: Mirror Stage | May 25 – July 30, 2017

Minnesota Museum of American Art, the Historic Pioneer Endicott, 141 E. 4th Street, St. Paul
651.797.2571 | www.mmaa.org

Exhibition hours: Thursday & Friday, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Exhibition-related programming:

(All events will be held on-site at the M unless otherwise noted)

- **Thursday, May 25, 7 – 9 p.m.:** [Opening reception](#)
Admission is free and open to the public. A cash bar will be available.
- **Saturday, June 10, 8:59 p.m. – 5:26 a.m.:** [Northern Spark at the M](#)
Visitors will be invited to build some of Hamlow's structures, led by the artist himself, in public art-making projects throughout the night at the museum.
- **Friday, June 23, 6 – 8 p.m.:** [Artist talk with Jetsonorama](#)
Chip Thomas (a.k.a. Jetsonorama) is a photographer, public artist, activist and physician who coordinates the Painted Desert Project, a community building exchange which manifests as a

constellation of murals across the Navajo Nation, painted by artists across the Rez and from around the world. In an event copresented by Springboard for the Arts and the M, with support from the McKnight Foundation, Jetsonarama will talk about his work and public practice.

- **Sunday, June 25, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.: All Are Welcome Here, the M, and PRIDE Lakes and Legends Brewing Company | 1368 LaSalle Avenue, Minneapolis, MN**

In partnership with the crew of All Are Welcome Here (AAWH), the M will bring art-making with an upcycle twist to PRIDE as part of the AAWH family lounge at Lakes and Legend's Brewery. Design and make your own yard sign with upcycled materials that reflects PRIDE's mission to honor and bring together the greater GLBTQIA community. Additional activities and partners forthcoming.

- **Thursday, July 6, 6 – 9 p.m.: The M After Hours**

Artist David Hamlow will help visitors to create sculptural pieces like his own, in art-making activities using recycled consumer packaging. The mother-daughter team behind the sustainable marketing organization Relan will also be on hand to talk about their work. The evening will also feature live musical performances and a cash bar.

- Look for an August pop-up program focused on conscientious fashion. Think vintage hop! Stay tuned via the M's social media channels.

(Ongoing) Materials Lab: Creative Reuse

Who needs oil paint when you have oil-based take-out containers? Artist David Hamlow invites you to create something new with something old in an artmaking activity that encourages reusing materials that typically are tossed out after a single use. Take recycling into your own hands!

(Ongoing) Response Wall: Love Letters to Earth

What's your wish for Mother Earth? For her waters, grasses, critters, and future? Write the earth a letter, and post it for others to see and consider.

About the Minnesota Museum of American Art

The Minnesota Museum of American Art (The M) is one of the oldest visual arts organizations in Minnesota, with roots stretching back to the 19th century. Based in St. Paul, the M currently holds more than 4,500 artworks that showcase the unique voices of American artists, guided by the belief that art should reflect the constantly shifting landscape that defines the American experience. With a flagship gallery in the Historic Pioneer Endicott building on the edge of St. Paul's Lowertown neighborhood, as well as traveling shows which introduce Minnesota artists to audiences around the state, region, and country at large, the M is home to an array of responsive exhibitions and programming that connect diverse audiences with artwork, subjects, and issues that are both relevant and widely engaging. For more information, visit www.mmaa.org.

In addition to the exhibition in its gallery space, the M two exhibitions currently on tour elsewhere:

Mike Hazard's photography exhibit, [*Seeds of Change: A Portrait of the Hmong American Farmers Association*](#), is on view at the Minnesota State Capitol through May 26.

Ken Gonzales-Day: Shadowlands (City Pages' "Best Museum Exhibit" of 2017) will be at the Flaten Art Museum at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN in September 2017.

The M's exhibitions are made possible, in part, by support from Target and the Minnesota State Arts board, through grants from the state's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

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