



MINNESOTA
MUSEUM of
AMERICAN ART

NEWS RELEASE

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Ken Gonzales-Day: Shadowlands

Minnesota Museum of American Art explores history of racialized violence with Ken Gonzales-Day exhibition

January 19–April 16, 2016

The M Project Space | The Historic Pioneer Endicott | 141 E. 4th Street, St. Paul

St. Paul, MN, December 14, 2016 — The Minnesota Museum of American Art (the M) opens 2017 with *Ken Gonzales-Day: Shadowlands*, a new exhibition of work by the Los Angeles-based artist whose award-winning photographs, videos, and research are helping transform understanding of the history of racialized violence in the United States.

Shadowlands is Gonzales-Day's first one-person museum exhibition in the Upper Midwest. The show is curated by Christopher Atkins, Curator of Exhibitions and Public Programs at the M.

Gonzales-Day is an interdisciplinary artist whose practice considers the historical construction of race. His photographs and videos, based on scholarly archival research, including his Pulitzer Prize-nominated book [Lynching in the West: 1850 - 1935](#), create jarringly haunting portraits of historical trauma.

This exhibition of 34 photographs, a short film, and archival ephemera cohere into a concise survey of the artist's career and includes works from his most famous bodies of work, including the *Erased Lynching*, *Searching for California's Hang Trees*, and *Run Up* series. The core of the *Run Up* series is a cinematic restaging of the lynching of Charles Valento on December 10, 1920. Utilizing details drawn from the coroner's report and his own archival research, Gonzales-Day focuses on this lynching to draw attention to the onlookers who witness and condone the violence. By presenting historical occurrences in conjunction with contemporary events, Gonzales-Day collapses time and exposes the persistence of racialized violence in the

United States, drawing parallels between historical lynchings and high profile cases of police brutality affecting communities of color today.

Kristin Makhholm, Executive Director of the M, commented, “This powerful exhibition of Ken Gonzales-Day’s work comes at a pivotal time in our history as we examine the darker elements of America’s past and present with increased scrutiny. The show is a natural fit for the M as we are committed to exploring the constantly shifting landscape that defines the American experience.”

Following the exhibition in St. Paul, *Ken Gonzales-Day: Shadowlands* will tour to St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN, in August 2017 and DePauw University in Greencastle, IN, in November 2017.

<http://mmaa.org/shadowlands>

Press Preview

Thursday, January 19, 2017

10 a.m. - noon

Artist and curator will be present and available for interviews.

Refreshments served

Ken Gonzales-Day: Shadowlands | January 19–April 16, 2016

The M Project Space, The Historic Pioneer Endicott, 141 E. 4th Street, St. Paul

Entrance located on the corner of 4th and Robert Streets

651.797.2571 | www.mmaa.org

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

Exhibition Related Programming: All events will be held in the M Project Space unless otherwise noted:

- Thursday, January 19, 7-9 p.m.: Public Reception with opening remarks by Ken Gonzales-Day
- Friday, January 20, 7-8:30 p.m.: Artist Talk with Ken Gonzales-Day and curator Christopher Atkins
- Ongoing: The *Shadowlands* Reading Room is a living room-like space for engaging with resources—books, poems, digital media—that respond to themes in the exhibition. The Reading Room is curated by Ken Gonzales-Day, poet Sun Yung Shin, faculty from the

Chican@ and Latinx Studies Department at the University of Minnesota, and the M staff. The Reading Room will also be a space for public convenings and conversations throughout the exhibition's run and will include a response wall for visitors wishing to share.

- February 21, 7 p.m.: Our ongoing partnership with McNally Smith College of Music continues with another *Art + Music Series* event. McNally Smith vocal students, under the leadership of faculty member Jennifer Scovell Parker, will perform a live soundtrack to accompany Ken Gonzales-Day's powerful video *Run Up*.
- February 25, 2017, 1-2 p.m.: Artist Response/Convening: *Guest TBD*
- March 18, 2017, 1-2 p.m.: Artist Response/Convening: *Jessica Lopez Lyman*
 - UMN Chican@ and Latinx Lecturer Jessica Lopez Lyman and artist collaborators offer an improvisational performance and invite conversation alongside the *Shadowlands* exhibition.
- March 24, 2017, 7 p.m.: Panel Discussion: *Guests TBD*
- April 8, 2017, 1-2 p.m.: Artist Response/Convening: Artist Leslie Barlow will delve into the relationship between images and social change.

About the Minnesota Museum of American Art

The Minnesota Museum of American Art (the M) inspires people to discover themselves and their communities through American art. Located in the historic Pioneer Endicott Building in downtown St. Paul, this responsive and relevant museum, founded in 1927, is an integral part of Minnesota's cultural landscape with a collection of more than 4,500 works of art. Guided by the belief that art should reflect the constantly shifting landscape that defines the American experience, the museum embraces and celebrates new voices, as well as artists from the 19th and 20th centuries. The M's interdisciplinary programs, classes, and community partnerships engage all ages and invite direct access to artists, art, and making. The M's Project Space is located in the historic Pioneer Endicott, at the corner of 4th and Robert Streets in downtown St. Paul.

