

## Art and Architecture Merge



## 2017 California-Pacific Triennial

'Building as Ever' at OCMA explores the connections between art and architecture.

by **DANIELLA WALSH**

PICTURED: Bryony Roberts' "Primo Piano" (2016), a site-specific installation at the American Academy in Rome, Italy. Courtesy of the artist. Roberts is one of 25 artists chosen for the O.C. Museum of Art's California-Pacific Triennial, May 6-Sept. 3.



**T**rong Nguyen draws wooden grates gracing windows and doors of colonial-style houses in Vietnam. Stanley Wong, aka anothermountainman, focuses on abandoned construction projects as sites for art in Hong Kong, and the Aussies known as Super Critical Mass (Julian Day and Luke Jaaniste) turn public buildings into instruments of sound. Peruvian Cesar Cornejo transforms dilapidated houses into site-specific installations by renovating and filling them with art, and Mexico City native Santiago Borja temporarily metamorphosed the Neutra House, a Los Angeles architectural icon, into a loom for indigenous tapestries.

Also in La La Land, Los Angeles photographer Michele Asselin presents the now defunct Hollywood Racetrack as evidence of a fading way of life. And Patricia Fernández, a Spanish-born artist who lives and works in Los Angeles, traces her own family history as it was entwined with a Paris bookstore through writings and photographs. Columbian artist Leyla Cardenas explores layers of structures as harbingers of progress but also loss inherent in physical transformations.

These are but a few of the 25 artists chosen for the Orange County Museum of Art's 2017 California-Pacific Triennial: "Building as Ever," to present their interpretation of the merging of art and architecture in international contemporary environments.

Curated by Cassandra Coblentz, senior curator at OCMA, the show represents works culled from California and the Pacific Rim region, as well as Latin America. Composed of photography, video, performance art, installations, drawings and paintings and combinations of all the above, the triennial offers as many perspectives on both disciplines and their evolution shaped by social, political, historical and aesthetic trends.

Coblentz is equally enthusiastic about art and architecture and has followed the chosen artists'

careers from her own curatorial beginnings. "There are many practicing architects who are artists and artists with architectural training, and those groups tend to respond strongly to the way human beings affect their environment," she says. *May 6 through Sept. 3, 2017. ocma.net*



## PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

anothermountainman (Stanley Wong), Hong Kong, China  
 Carmen Argote, Los Angeles, CA  
 Michele Asselin, Los Angeles, CA  
 Cedric Bomford, Victoria, Canada  
 Santiago Borja, Bogota, Columbia  
 Leyla Cardenas, Bogota, Columbia  
 Cesar Cornejo, Lima, Peru, Tampa, FL  
 Beatriz Cortez, Los Angeles, CA  
 Estudio Teddy Cruz+Forman (Teddy Cruz & Fonna Forman)  
 San Diego, CA  
 Ken Ehrlich, Los Angeles, CA  
 Yuki Kimura, Kyoto, Japan  
 Patricia Fernández, Los Angeles, CA  
 Lead Pencil Studio, (Annie Han & Daniel Mihalyo),  
 Seattle, WA  
 Renée Lotenero, Los Angeles, CA  
 Cybele Lyle, Oakland, CA  
 Ronald Morán, San Salvador, El Salvador  
 Trong Nguyen, Saigon, Vietnam  
 Nancy Popp, Los Angeles, CA  
 Olga Koumoundouros, Los Angeles, CA  
 Pilar Quinteros, Santiago, Chile  
 Bryony Roberts, Los Angeles, CA  
 Alex Slade, Los Angeles, CA  
 Super Critical Mass (Julian Day, Sydney, Australia,  
 Luke Jaaniste, Brisbane, Australia)  
 Wang Wei, Beijing, Chinese Republic  
 Haegue Yang, Berlin, Germany, Seoul, S. Korea



## Cassandra Coblentz

In 2016, Cassandra Coblentz became the Orange County Museum's senior curator. She is also its director of public programs.

Before joining OCMA, Coblentz was the associate curator for the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art and has independently curated exhibitions throughout the United States, with "Economy of Means: Toward Humility in Contemporary Sculpture" and "Jean Shin and Brian Rippel: Unlocking" earning her peer recognition.

A native of Los Angeles, Coblentz has focused on under-recognized artists and themes including the relationship of politics

and the environment to art and historic roots of art practice. She has also guest-curated "Ellen Lesperance, Helen Mirra, Traversing" for the Armory Center for the Arts in Pasadena.

She earned a bachelor's degree from Cornell University and a master's degree from the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College. She began her career in the museum education department at the J. Paul Getty Museum and currently lives and works in Orange County.