

## FY17 MetaModern Long Description (337 words)

### *MetaModern*

October 9, 2016 – February 26, 2017

Palm Springs Art Museum Architecture and Design Center, Edwards Harris Pavilion,  
Trina Turk Gallery



Edgar Orlaineta, *Narcissus*, 2002, Two LCW Chairs (Charles and Ray Eames, 1946, for Herman Miller, reproduction), steel cables, Courtesy Sara Meltzer, New York

Modernist design—that radical and iconoclastic break with the past—is now itself a thing of history. Indeed, contemporary artists often view modern designs as icons and incorporate them, sometimes literally and often conceptually, into their own work. These modifications result in an entirely unique mix: a meta-modernism, in which the original source is changed and abstracted, and the outcome is self-referential. Using classic elements in new configurations, artists are making unique works that explore the concept of modernism as a style, at once commenting on the aesthetics of the past and the complexities of the present in the playful spirit of critique and homage.

The artists in this exhibition, most of who were born in the 1960s, question the reverence accorded to classic modernism. Too young to have grown up eating breakfast cereal from a Russel Wright spoon while seated in an Eames molded chair, these artists appropriate the language of the modernist movement critically, using it to interrogate the meaning of style and its relationship to history. Whether working in the United States, Europe, or Latin America, in video, photography, or sculpture, their work challenges the tenets of modernism head-on.

Some recast iconic forms in materials that inherently question the precepts of the originals, such as Terence Gower's papier-mâché. Edgar Orlaineta takes touchstone designs of the era by Charles and Ray Eames and reorients the original expressions of utility and simplicity. Constantin Boym marries two divergent ethos, high modernism and Sears, and Brian Jungen embellishes iconic designs with crafty and incongruous accretions. In film, Dorit Margreiter and Josiah McElheny demonstrate how modern design has become an eloquent storyteller, and in photography James Welling and Jill Magid shift contexts and orientations, formal and conceptual. Often ironic and witty, the works in this exhibition offer a thoughtful critique of innumerable issues that extend across the fields of design and history. Other

artists include Conrad Bakker, Kendell Carter, Jordi Colomer, William Cordova, Elmgreen & Dragset, Fernanda Fragateiro, Olga Koumoundouros, Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle, Simon Starling, Clarissa Tossin, and Barbara Visser.

Organized by Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Curators: Ginger Gregg Duggan and Judith Hoos Fox of c2-curatorsquared

Sponsored in part by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: Office of the Provost and Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Francis P. Rohlen Visiting Artists Fund/College of Fine and Applied Arts, and Krannert Art Museum and partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency

The Palm Springs presentation is funded in part by IKEA.



## **FY17 MetaModern Short Description (150 words)**

*MetaModern*

October 9, 2016 – February 26, 2017

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Trina Turk Gallery

Modernist design—that once-radical break with the past—is now itself a thing of history. Indeed, contemporary artists often view modern designs as icons and incorporate them into their own work. The result is meta-modernism, in which the original source is changed and abstracted, and the outcome is self-referential. Using classic elements in new configurations, artists explore the concept of modernism as a style in the playful spirit of critique and homage.

The artists in this exhibition challenge the tenets of modernism head-on, whether working in the United States, Europe, or Latin America, in a range of media. Some recast iconic forms in unexpected materials, while others marry divergent ethos to modernism's streamlined aesthetics. Often ironic and witty, the exhibition offers a thoughtful critique of issues that extend across design history. Artists include Terence Gower, Edgar Orlaineta, James Welling, and Elmgreen & Dragset, among others.

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## **FY17 MetaModern Super Short Description (60 words)**

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October 9, 2016 – February 26, 2017

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Trina Turk Gallery

Modernist design—that once-radical break with the past—is now itself a thing of history. In the spirit of critique and homage, this exhibition features contemporary artists who explore modern style in playful new ways. By recasting iconic forms in unexpected materials, or marrying divergent ethos to modernism's streamlined aesthetics, meta-modernism challenges the tenets of an important design history.