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New Museum to show Silver Lion Award Winner Haroon Mirza at Studio 231

Mirza to employ LED Lights, Video, and Remixed Samples of Music and Sounds to Dissolve and Reconstruct the Exhibition Space for his First New York Solo Show

New York, NY... “Preoccupied Waveforms” is the first New York solo show by the artist **Haroon Mirza**. This exhibition is the fourth in a series of new projects by young international artists at **Studio 231**, the New Museum’s adjacent, ground-floor space at 231 Bowery. Mirza uses simple industrial materials to radically transform the perceptual experience of architectural space. Over the past ten years, Mirza has deployed a range of both analog and digital devices to create dynamic compositions of sound and light. His performances, kinetic sculptures, and immersive installations have made him one of the most celebrated young international artists working today. Mirza was the recipient of both the **2010 Northern Art Prize** in the United Kingdom and the **Silver Lion Award** for most promising young artist at the 54th Venice Biennale (2011).

“**Preoccupied Waveforms**” is on view from **September 19, 2012–January 6, 2013**, and is curated by Gary Carrion-Murayari, Curator, and Jenny Moore, Associate Curator.

Mirza’s work is often distinguished by its improvised use of outmoded audiovisual technologies. Turntables, speaker cabinets, monitors, and more contemporary electronic equipment are rewired and integrated into objects that recall antiquated technologies, and work together to create new visual and auditory landscapes. More recently, Mirza has expanded his work to take on entire architectural environments. Strands of LED lights, fragments of video, and amplified electricity are programmed to disrupt and destabilize the exhibition space. Mirza often incorporates references to or even works by other artists into his installations and his pieces extend beyond formal experimentation to consider the social, historical, and political conditions in which his compositions are sited.



Haroon Mirza, *Digital Switchover* 2012. Installation view.
VIII Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen, Switzerland, 2012.
Courtesy the artist. Photo Gunnar Meier

Mirza has recently completed a trio of interrelated site-specific exhibitions: \|\|\|\\|\|\| at the Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen in Switzerland, /\//\ /\ at the University of Michigan Museum of Art, and --\{\}\ {\--\{\}\} \{\--\{\}\} at the Ernst Schering Foundation in Berlin. These installations, whose titles comprise typographical symbols to represent various wavelengths, each use an array of programmed devices activated throughout diverse architectural spaces. Similarly, his project for the New Museum will use LED lights, video, and remixed samples of music and sounds to dissolve and reconstruct the Studio 231 space.

Haroon Mirza was born in London in 1977. He studied Design Critical Theory and Practice at Goldsmiths College and Fine Art at Chelsea College of Art and Design. Mirza has presented exhibitions and performances at venues including Chisenhale Gallery, London, the Camden Arts Centre, London, and Spike Island, Bristol. His work has been included in a number of group exhibitions internationally including the British Art Show 7 (2010) and Performa 11. He currently lives and works in London and Sheffield, UK.

About the Studio 231 Series

The New Museum's Studio 231 series presents commissioned projects in the Museum's adjacent, ground-floor space at 231 Bowery. The Museum inaugurated the series in October 2011 with a new installation and performances by Spartacus Chetwynd, followed by exhibitions by Enrico David, and Nathalie Djurberg and Hans Berg. This new initiative gives international, emerging artists the opportunity to realize ambitious new works conceived especially for the space. These projects at 231 Bowery also seek to foster a new relationship between the artists and the public by allowing artists to create work outside the confines of the main museum building and in closer proximity to the energy of the street and to the creative space of the artist's studio.

Exhibition Support

Generous support for Studio 231 is provided by Ellyn and Saul Dennison, Mitzi and Warren Eisenberg, Susan and Leonard Feinstein, Hermine and David Heller, Lietta and Dakis Joannou, Toby Devan Lewis, and the Board of Trustees of the New Museum.

Additional support for programming at Studio 231 is provided, in part, by the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund.

About the New Museum

The New Museum is the only museum in New York City exclusively devoted to contemporary art. Founded in 1977, the New Museum is a center for exhibitions, information, and documentation about living artists from around the world. From its beginnings as a one-room office on Hudson Street to the inauguration of its first freestanding building on the Bowery designed by SANAA in 2007, the New Museum continues to be a place of experimentation and a hub of new art and new ideas.

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