**THE CRIME OF ART**

Video Installation and Objects from Kota Ezawa

We are proud to announce our second solo exhibition with the Japanese-German artist Kota Ezawa.

In *The Crime of Art* Kota Ezawa presents a series of lightboxes that reference theft, misappropriation and vandalism. Among Ezawa’s work is a version of Gustav Klimt’s “Portrait of Adele Bloch Bauer I” that was stolen by the Nazis before being returned to its rightful owner Maria Altman in 2006. Also on display are recreations of Caspar David Friedrich’s “Nebelschwaden” stolen from the SCHRIN Kunsthalle in 1994 and Johannes Vermeer’s “The Concert” stolen from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston in 1990.

In the video space, Ezawa’s 2013 watercolor animation “Take Off,” which chronicles George W. Bush’s last day in office, is paired with a watercolor painting entitled “Group Therapy.” Only weeks after the most recent US election, Ezawa’s video acts as a reminder of the stark contrast in global sentiments towards America at the beginning and at the end of the Obama era.

Kota Ezawa often reworks images from popular culture, film and art history, stripping them down to their core elements. His simplified versions remain easily recognizable and potent; the result of a process that illuminates the hold certain images have on their viewers. Working in a range of mediums such as digital animation, slide projections, light boxes, paper cut-outs, collage, print, and wood sculptures, Ezawa maintains a keen awareness of how images shape our experience and memory of events.

His work has been displayed in museum solo exhibitions including at the Chrysler Museum of Art in Norfolk, VA (2015), the Albright Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, New York (2013), the Vancouver Art Gallery's outdoor exhibition space Offsite (2012) and the Hayward Gallery Project Space in London (2007). His work has been included in group exhibitions such as, *Out of the Ordinary* at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington DC (2013), *After Photoshop* at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY (2012), and *The More Things Change* at San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA (2011). Ezawa's work has earned a number of awards, including the SECA Art Award of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (2006), a Eureka Fellowship from the Fleishhacker Foundation (2010) and the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Biennial Award (2003).

His work is included in renowned collections such as**:** Metropolitan Museum of Art**,** New York**;** Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden**,** Washington, DC;MOMA, New York**;** San Francisco Museum of Modern Art**,** San Francisco;J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, among others.

Kota Ezawa lives and works in Oakland, California.