BMA PRESENTS FIRST BROOMBERG & CHANARIN EXHIBITION IN THE US

New Body of Work Highlights Technology’s Impact on Warfare

BALTIMORE, MD (February 25, 2016)—The BMA presents new photography, copper plates, sculpture, and film by Adam Broomberg (1970, South Africa) and Oliver Chanarin (1971, United Kingdom) in the exhibition Front Room: Broomberg and Chanarin, on view April 13 through September 11, 2016.

The creative partners have worked together since the late 1990s, challenging the concepts and structure of power through their photography-based practice. Their new body of work underscores the changes technology has wrought on warfare, revealing the fallacies we tell ourselves about it.

“Technology often progresses more quickly than humans’ capacity to use it, causing some to ask: we can do this, but should we?” said Ann Shafer, Associate Curator of Prints, Drawings & Photographs. “Broomberg and Chanarin peel back the layers on difficult subjects and present them in ways that engage rather than repel. This is truly their magic: ideas are presented in a way that allows space and time for viewers to digest them, react to them, think about their own opinions, and realize there are unseen sides to every story.”

An example includes large-scale photographs of bullets that collided and fused midair during the Civil War as well as images of high-precision prisms—the sort made in Germany during World War II that enabled scopes on firearms and the ability to kill an enemy from a great distance.

As part of this exhibition, the BMA will present in the Black Box gallery Broomberg & Chanarin’s 12-minute film, Rudiments (2015), which shows a group of young British cadets training at a military camp. As they learn drumrolls and how to march in formation, a bouffon arrives and disrupts them in an effort to mock the system that produced these cadets. The film’s title refers to the 40 rudiments that form the technical foundation of percussive music, including rolls, strokes, and paradiddles. The soundtrack is a dramatic, improvised score for drums by the American musician Kid Millions (also known as John Colpitts).

The exhibition is curated By Associate Curator of Prints, Drawings & Photographs Ann Shafer.


THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART
The Baltimore Museum of Art is home to an internationally renowned collection of 19th-century, modern, and contemporary art. Founded in 1914 with a single painting, the BMA today has 95,000 works of art—including the largest holding of works by Henri Matisse in the world. Throughout the museum, visitors will find an outstanding selection of American and European painting, sculpture, and decorative arts; prints and drawings from the 15th century to the present; works by established and emerging...
contemporary artists; and exceptional objects from Africa and Asia. Two beautifully landscaped gardens display an array of 20th-century sculpture that is an oasis in the city. The 210,000-square-foot museum is distinguished by a grand historic building designed in the 1920s by renowned American architect John Russell Pope. A $28 million multi-year renovation that began in 2010 has transformed galleries for contemporary, American, African, and Asian art, and improved visitor amenities and essential infrastructure. Since 2006, the BMA has provided free general admission so that everyone can enjoy the power of art.

VISITOR INFORMATION
The Baltimore Museum of Art is open Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. The museum is closed Monday, Tuesday, New Year’s Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The BMA is located at 10 Art Museum Drive at North Charles and 31st Streets, three miles north of Baltimore’s Inner Harbor. For general Museum information, call 443-573-1700 or visit artbma.org.

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