



500 University Avenue
Rochester, NY 14607
585.276.8900 | mag.rochester.edu



MAG contact — Meg Colombo, Marketing & Communications Manager:
585.276-8934; mcolombo@mag.rochester.edu

RoCo contact — Bleu Cease, Executive Director/Curator:
585.461.2222; bleu@rochestercontemporary.org

**Memorial Art Gallery and RoCo collaborate on major exhibition
of Meleko Mokgosi's *Pax Kaffraria*
*mural-sized paintings of southern African culture***

RoCo: February 3 – March 19, 2017

MAG: February 19 – May 7, 2017

Rochester, NY, November 14, 2016 — the Memorial Art Gallery and Rochester Contemporary Art Center (RoCo) are collaborating to bring Rochester a unique multi-venue exhibition by internationally acclaimed artist Meleko Mokgosi.

Meleko Mokgosi, a contemporary painter from Botswana now living in NYC, has received international attention for beautifully rendered, mural-sized canvases that explore southern African politics, history, culture, and the complexity of the postcolonial experience.

Pax Kaffraria represents the artist's most ambitious project to date. Composed of eight "chapters," it features chieftains, dictators, clergymen, soldiers, civilians, school children, activists, herdsman, cattle, dogs, and big-game creatures presented in a panoramic, cinematic format.

Seven of the eight chapters will be exhibited in Rochester; six will be on view at MAG and one at RoCo.

RoCo's Executive Director/Curator Bleu Cease says, "This is an exciting collaborative effort between RoCo and MAG. Brought together from both public and private collections, this exhibition will mark the most complete showing of *Pax Kaffraria* to date. I know that Rochester will appreciate these large-scale, arresting works."

MAG director Jonathan Binstock, who has published on Mokgosi's work, says "*Pax Kaffraria* depicts the history of a fictional African nation and involves themes of globalism and xenophobia. It is an allegory about allegories; it is a story of history's afterlife, and it has much resonance today."

Binstock wrote the essay "*Meleko Mokgosi's Pax Kaffraria: Phantom History, Phantom Nation*" for the book *Meleko Mokgosi: Pax Kaffraria* (Los Angeles: Hammer Museum, UCLA 2012).

The exhibition is sponsored by the Mohn Family Foundation, with additional support from the Robert L. and Mary L. Sproull Fund.

About the artist

Meleko Mokgosi has received international attention for his finely rendered, mural-sized figurative paintings that explore the complexity of politics, history, and culture in postcolonial southern Africa. Mokgosi has participated in group shows at the Studio Museum in Harlem, where he was an artist-in-residence, the Hammer Museum at UCLA, and the Lyon Biennale, among others. In 2015 he had solo exhibitions at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, and at Jack Shainman Gallery, The School, Kinderhook, New York. In the fall of 2016 he had his first solo exhibition in New York City at Jack Shainman Gallery. Mokgosi is the recipient of the 2012 Mohn Award from the Hammer Museum. He lives and works in New York City, where he continues to investigate how national identity influences the way people understand their place in the world.

About the Memorial Art Gallery

MAG was founded in 1912 by Emily Sibley Watson as a memorial to her son, architect James Averell. Given in trust to the University of Rochester, it is one of the few university-affiliated art museums in the country that also serves as a city art museum. Today it is supported primarily by its members, the University of Rochester and public funds from Monroe County and the New York State Council on the Arts.

The Memorial Art Gallery showcases visual art from antiquity to the present day, including the outdoor public Centennial Sculpture Park, which is always open and always free. MAG's permanent collection spans fifty centuries and includes more than 12,000 objects, including work by masters such as Homer, Monet, O'Keeffe, Lawrence, and Rembrandt.

In addition to its collection, MAG offers a year-round schedule of special exhibitions, lectures, concerts, tours, after-hours social events, and family activities.

Memorial Art Gallery website

For more information visit: mag.rochester.edu/

MAG Hours and Admission

The Memorial Art Gallery is open Wednesday – Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm and until 9 pm on Thursday and First Fridays; closed Monday and Tuesday. General admission is \$14; senior citizens, \$10; college students with ID and children 6 – 18, \$5. Free to members; University of Rochester students, faculty and staff; and children 5 and under. Half-price general admission Thursdays from 5 – 9 pm is made possible in part by Monroe County.

About RoCo

Rochester Contemporary Art Center (RoCo) is a venue for the exchange of ideas and a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) that was founded in 1977. As a center for thoughtful contemporary art, RoCo provides unique encounters for audiences and extraordinary opportunities for artists.

RoCo Hours and Admission

Wednesday – Sunday: 1 pm to 5pm / Friday: 1 pm to 9pm. Visit: rochestercontemporary.org

General Public: \$2. Free for RoCo members.

Contact information: (585) 461-2222.

IMAGES (PRESS ONLY) Images are available by request.

###