

THE SEEN

CHICAGO'S INTERNATIONAL ONLINE JOURNAL OF CONTEMPORARY & MODERN ART

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**EXPO
CHGO** THE INTERNATIONAL
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**19-22
SEPTEMBER
2019**
NAVY PIER

bemiscenter
FOR CONTEMPORARY ARTS



EXPO CHICAGO'S JOURNAL OF CONTEMPORARY ART "THE SEEN" PRESENTS INAUGURAL CRITIC-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM WITH BEMIS CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ARTS

Writer **Joel Kuennen** to Serve as Critic-in-Residence from April 8-12

Omaha, Neb. – *THE SEEN*, Chicago's International Journal of Contemporary & Modern Art, published twice a year in print and online by EXPO CHICAGO, The International Exposition of Contemporary & Modern Art (September 19 – 22, 2019) in partnership with Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts has invited Joel Kuennen to serve as a Critic-in-Residence from April 8–12, 2019. While in residence, Kuennen will visit Spring 2019 artists-in-residence in their studios at Bemis and engage in a high level of critical discourse. He will also write a critical review about current Bemis exhibitions, *Alison O'Daniel: Heavy Air* and *Lui Shtini: Tempos*, to be published in *THE SEEN*. In addition, Kuennen will receive a tour of local arts organizations, giving him greater context to the role Omaha plays in cultural production today.

“The partnership with a leading institution such as Bemis allows the journal to foster more opportunities for our writers in support of their criticism practice,” said **Stephanie Cristello**, EXPO CHICAGO Artistic Director and Editor-in-Chief of *THE SEEN*. “The Critic-in-Residence program will provide a platform to the excellent work being done at Bemis, as well as create space for the commission of new texts for the publication. We are pleased to appoint Joel

Kuennen to this inaugural position, whose text on Yinka Shonibare CBE is on the cover of Issue 08 of the journal, launching this month.”

The residency aligns with the exposition’s recent programmatic expansion and focus on supporting international dialogue about the contemporary art creation taking place throughout the Midwest region.

"We are thrilled to host Joel as our first Critic-in-Residence as part of our new partnership with *THE SEEN*," said **Rachel Adams**, Chief Curator and Director of Programs at Bemis. "This is a great opportunity for Bemis exhibitions to be reviewed in an international publication and for our artists-in-residence to have studio visits that can deepen their practice while receiving critical feedback on their work. We look forward to seeing how this partnership develops!"

Kuennen has been an art critic, editor and curator publishing criticism on emerging artists for nearly 10 years. His written work focuses on the intersection of technology, identity and society. Kuennen served as an Editor at *ArtSlant* for six years and as a contributing editor for *Theorizing Visual Studies* (Routledge, 2012). His work has been published in *Art in America*, *ArtSlant*, *Elephant*, *Mutual Art*, *THE SEEN* and many others. His most recent essay, "The Place of Gender in Technological Possibility," published in *Prototypes* (Sternberg Press, 2019). Kuennen has curated more than twenty exhibitions including *Strings: Data and the Self* (2018) at California Museum of Art, Thousand Oaks.

About Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts

Founded in 1981, by artists for artists, Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts supports today’s artists through an international residency program, temporary exhibitions and commissions and innovative public programs. Located in the historic Old Market district, Bemis Center serves a critical role in the presentation and understanding of contemporary art, bridging the community of Omaha to a global discourse surrounding cultural production today.

About *THE SEEN*

THE SEEN, *Chicago’s International Journal of Contemporary & Modern Art*, features in-depth writing on exhibitions, as well as highlight essays, artist profiles and reviews. Born out of a need for international art criticism within the city and context of Chicago’s thriving art scene, *THE SEEN* was founded in 2013 by Editor-in-Chief Stephanie Cristello and has continued to expand distribution and readership throughout the United States and Europe. With a network of Staff Writers reporting from around the world, *THE SEEN* features exclusive pieces and new commissions on the best in international contemporary art. Publishing twice a year in print, in addition to monthly online issues, the free, full-color, 175+ page journal is produced as a 12,000-count run and is available for distribution at multiple public locations throughout the city of Chicago, as well as select national and international distribution. *THE SEEN* is published by EXPO CHICAGO.

About EXPO CHICAGO

Opening the fall art season each September, **EXPO CHICAGO**, The International Exposition of Contemporary & Modern Art features leading international galleries alongside one of the highest quality platforms for contemporary art and culture. Hosted within Navy Pier’s Festival Hall, EXPO CHICAGO’s eighth edition will take place September 19 – 22, 2019, in alignment with the 2019 Chicago Architecture Biennial (September 19, 2019 – January 5, 2020). EXPO CHICAGO presents a diverse program, including **Dialogues** (presented in partnership with the

School of the Art Institute of Chicago) and ***Exchange by Northern Trust***, an unrivaled talks program for both public and VIP audiences; **IN/SITU**, dynamic on-site installations highlighting large-scale sculpture, film, and site-specific work; and major public art initiatives, including **IN/SITU Outside**, public art installed throughout Chicago Park District locations, and **OVERRIDE**, a curated selection of international artists throughout the city's digital billboard network. The EXPO CHICAGO program also features an unprecedented commitment to host curatorial initiatives during the exposition, including the **Curatorial Forum** in partnership with Independent Curators International (ICI), and the **Curatorial Exchange**, which partners with international consulates to expand the exposition's global outreach. EXPO CHICAGO is the publisher of **THE SEEN**, Chicago's only international journal of contemporary and modern art criticism, online and in print.

EXPO CHICAGO is presented by Art Expositions, LLC. Under the leadership of President and Director **Tony Karman**, EXPO CHICAGO draws upon the city's rich history as a vibrant international cultural destination, while highlighting the region's contemporary arts community and inspiring its collector base. For more information on EXPO CHICAGO and **EXPO ART WEEK** (September 16 – 22, 2019) visit **expochicago.com**.

**Image of Joel Kuennen by Nick Briz.*

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