



**New Orleans
Museum of Art**

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Contact: Grace Wilson, Manager of Communications and Marketing, gwilson@noma.org

NOMA Presents
Parallel Universe: Quintron and Miss Pussycat
Live at City Park

First solo museum exhibition for New Orleans artists opens Jan. 30

[Hi-res images of the artist and/or work from the exhibition available upon request.]

NEW ORLEANS (Wednesday, October 21, 2009) — On January 30, New Orleans Museum of Art will kick off the 2010 contemporary exhibition schedule with a celebration of New Orleans artists **Quintron and Miss Pussycat**.

Widely known for multimedia performances in music clubs and alternative art spaces over the past 15 years, Quintron and Miss Pussycat have inspired audiences around the world with their innovative approach to puppetry and organ-based music. ***Parallel Universe: Quintron and Miss Pussycat Live at City Park*** will be the artists' first museum exhibition. In addition to past work, Miss Pussycat will debut a new music video, and an original music album by Quintron will be recorded entirely on-site at the New Orleans Museum of Art.

Parallel Universe: Quintron and Miss Pussycat Live at City Park is organized by **Miranda Lash**, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art. The exhibition will be on view in the second-floor Frederick R. Weisman Gallery from January 30 to May 2, 2010.

The exhibition will begin with a vibrant and comprehensive display of Miss Pussycat's puppetry, a "parallel universe" the artist creates and channels within her set designs and performances. Hundreds of her puppets will take over the first gallery, spanning the length of Miss Pussycat's career. Arranged in miniature landscapes, her handmade puppets fuse the surreal and fantastical with a dose of whimsy.

Describing the puppets as "portals to the spirit world," the artist explains that the ritual of making a puppet show allows the puppets to assume a life of their own.

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Her versatile working method as a puppeteer ranges from swiftly arranging puppet shows for rock concert stages, to painstakingly directing videos with large support crews and arranging prerecorded soundtracks. Miss Pussycat's presentation will include the premiere of her latest puppet video.

Quintron's contribution to *Parallel Universe* will consist of two components: an interactive display of his patented **DRUM BUDDY** sound machines, and a commitment to undertake the recording of a new album in a gallery space. The artist will install his entire recording studio in NOMA's contemporary galleries, surrounded by works of art culled from the Museum's collection. Offering his services as a temporary employee of NOMA, Quintron will clock in five days a week, from Wednesday to Sunday during normal business hours, to work on the album.

Having visited NOMA's art storage numerous times since early 2009, Quintron has carefully chosen a selection of paintings, primarily portraits from the last few centuries, to be displayed around his electric organ and recording table. The artist will draw inspiration from these masterpieces and from the unique and unfamiliar experience of recording in front of an audience of Museum visitors. Members of the public will be invited to enter the recording studio and observe the artist at work.

A gallery located adjacent to Quintron's recording studio will focus on the development of Quintron's patented instrument the *DRUM BUDDY*, a light-activated analog synthesizer. Based on the principal of light-sensing circuits, the *DRUM BUDDY* is capable of uniquely replicating kick, snare, bass, organ and record-scratching sounds. On display will be early prototypes dating from the mid-1990s, specimens from each of Quintron's production runs, as well as several new *DRUM BUDDIES* with added features. The public will have the opportunity to create music on a *DRUM BUDDY* that has been specially designed for museum use.

To assist Quintron in documenting his recording process, NOMA is pleased to be collaborating with the organization **Open Sound New Orleans**, a community media project led by **Jacob Brancasi** and **Heather Booth**. On a weekly basis Quintron will send audio updates (ambient and musical "snapshots" rather than finished recordings) to Open Sound, which can then be accessed online, through the free website: www.opensoundneworleans.com.

Programs:

Saturday, January 30, 2010, 5:30-9 p.m.—Opening reception

A reception will celebrate the opening of *Parallel Universe* and prepare the public for Quintron's first week of recording sessions. A cash bar will be available in the Great Hall and the Museum will be open throughout the evening for viewing of *Parallel Universe*.

Wednesday, March 31, 2010, 6-8 p.m. —Film Screening

Panacea Theriac (Miss Pussycat) hosts a screening of puppet films followed by Q & A.

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Wednesday, April 28, 2010, 6-8 p.m.—Listening Party

Commemorating the completion of Quintron's latest album recorded on site, NOMA will host a listening party of his new tracks.

About Quintron and Miss Pussycat:

Separate masters of their respective realms, yet eternally each other's assistant, the artists have been touring together as Quintron and Miss Pussycat since 1995. Together they manage the nightclub, The Spellcaster Lodge, in New Orleans' Ninth Ward.

Panacea Theriac, otherwise known as Miss Pussycat, is a New Orleans-based puppeteer. Born in Antlers, Oklahoma, she began learning puppetry at the Christian Puppet Youth Ministry at the First Baptist Church of Antlers. In 1993 she moved to New Orleans and assisted in founding the influential night club "Pussycat Caverns." For the past 15 years she has traveled internationally conducting puppet shows in night clubs and art galleries. She is the President of Rhinestone Records and produces vinyl LPs of her puppet band, *Flossie and the Unicorns*. Her three full-length puppet movies, *North Pole Nutrias* (2002), *Electric Swamp* (2005), and most recently *Trixie and The Tree trunks* (commissioned by *Vice* magazine in 2007), have featured the voices of numerous New Orleans musical, political, and literary celebrities, including **Sheriff Harry Lee**, seafood entrepreneur **Al Scramuzza**, **Antoinette K-Doe**, and **Andrei Codrescu**.

Quintron has been making genre-defying noise and "Swamp-Tech" dance music in New Orleans for over 15 years. His ten full-length albums have the soul of New Orleans R&B filtered through a cache of self-made electronic instruments. He has also released experimental soundscapes based on inner-city field recordings of frogs and neighborhood ambiance. Quintron regards his most significant creation to be his patented instrument called the *DRUM BUDDY*, a light activated analog synthesizer that creates murky, low-fidelity, rhythmic patterns. Notable *DRUM BUDDY* clients include performers **Nels Cline** of *Wilco*, **Laurie Anderson**, and **Mr. Dibbs**.

About NOMA and the Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden

The New Orleans Museum of Art, founded in 1910 by Isaac Delgado, houses more than 30,000 art objects encompassing 4,000 years of world art. Works from the permanent collection, along with continuously changing temporary exhibitions, are on view in the Museum's 46 galleries Wednesdays from noon to 8 p.m. and Thursdays to Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission to the adjacent Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden, featuring work by 59 artists, including several of the 20th century's great master sculptors, is always free during regular Museum hours. The New Orleans Museum of Art and the Besthoff Sculpture Garden are fully accessible to handicapped visitors and wheelchairs are available from the front desk. **Please note the Sculpture Garden is closed for renovation until early 2010.** For more information, call (504) 658-4100 or visit www.noma.org.

