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***TIM SHAW: BEYOND REASON* BRINGS SIX IMMERSIVE INSTALLATIONS
TO THE SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF ART IN FIRST U.S. EXHIBITION
*Integrates Multi-Sensory Installations, Mixed Media Sculpture and Artificial
Intelligence to Raise Discussion of Humanitarian Issues***

SAN DIEGO – [The San Diego Museum of Art](http://TheSanDiegoMuseumofArt.org) is pleased to present *Tim Shaw: Beyond Reason*, an exhibition creating psychologically charged environments that address humanitarian issues in several immersive installations. On view Oct. 20, 2018 through Feb. 24, 2019, the exhibition touches on several major themes, including global terrorism, freedom of speech, abuse of power and the future of artificial intelligence.

Tim Shaw, a celebrated Northern Irish sculptor, is known for his large-scale multi-sensory installations that create dialogue around controversial topics. The six installations featured in this exhibition are based on extraordinary personal experiences throughout the artist's life, but the topics are universal and timeless.

Mother, The Air Is Blue, The Air Is Dangerous recreates a childhood memory of a bombing in a Belfast café in July 1972. Though it is not confirmed that it was one of the 22 bombs that exploded during Bloody Friday, the bombing that Shaw and his mother experienced was part of several explosions that occurred during this time. In this immersive installation, visitors wander through a blue fog, with tables and chairs upended and trays spinning through the air. The work goes beyond political views and beliefs, focusing more on innocent victims caught up in exogenous divisions, something that the public can relate to in the many conflicts across the world today.

“*Tim Shaw: Beyond Reason* is provocative and unlike any other contemporary exhibition the Museum has shown before,” said Anita Feldman, Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs and Education at The San Diego Museum of Art. “In the daily lives of many of us, there is a sense that we are cocooned from global events. Mr. Shaw’s work draws us closer to the reality of these conflicts, daring us to engage with them, challenging us to ask questions about society’s role or silent complicity.”

These themes also underlie another immersive installation, *Soul Snatcher Possession*, which guides visitors through a dimly lit room featuring eight life-size figures in physical confrontation with one another and provoking the visitor to question their own role. Although difficult to confront, this scene challenges the visitor to question abuses of power and the capability for depravity that lies within us all. An additional installation, *The Birth of Breakdown Clown*, integrates sculpture with robotics and artificial intelligence (AI). Shaw’s robotic artwork assisted by AI speaks directly to visitors about moral conflicts facing the world today and provides thought-provoking responses about what it means to be human.

“Tim Shaw’s work elicits important questions regarding the civics of today. To create these dialogues is an essential role of art and its ability to propel individuals to achieve new levels of the human experience,” said Roxana Velásquez, Maruja Baldwin Executive Director of The San Diego Museum of Art.

Born in Belfast, Northern Ireland in 1964, Shaw currently lives in rural Cornwall in England. He was elected to The Royal Academy of Arts, London, in 2013 and made a Fellow of The Royal British Society of Sculptors and a Fellow of Falmouth University the same year.

Shaw has had a number of significant solo exhibitions throughout the United Kingdom and internationally. *Tim Shaw: Beyond Reason* is the first time the artist’s work has been on view in the U.S.

Tim Shaw: Beyond Reason is curated by Anita Feldman, Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs and Education at The San Diego Museum of Art. The exhibition will have an accompanying publication with scholarly essays and an interview with the artist. The exhibition will also include a panel discussion with the artist that will take place October 19 with a range of speakers discussing social and political implications of art today. On January 25 there will be a music program

featuring a pop-up performance by Art of Élan and a film screening of *Bloody Sunday*, the 2002 Irish film that recreates in minute detail the events leading up to and following “Bloody Sunday,” when British soldiers fired at Irish civilians during a civil rights protest march in Derry, Northern Ireland.

About The San Diego Museum of Art

Providing a rich and diverse cultural experience, The San Diego Museum of Art houses some of the world’s finest art. Located in the heart of Balboa Park, the Museum’s internationally renowned collection of more than 20,000 works—dating from 3000 BC to present day—includes Spanish and Italian old masters, South Asian paintings including the Edwin Binney 3rd Collection of Indian paintings, East Asian art, American art, and Modern and Contemporary paintings and sculptures. The Museum regularly features major exhibitions of art from around the world, as well as an extensive year-round schedule supporting cultural and educational programs for children and adults. It also hosts engaging experiences that invite visitors to explore art through music, dance, film, food, and so much more. At The San Diego Museum of Art, exhibition text is always in English and Spanish.

The San Diego Museum of Art is located at 1450 El Prado in Balboa Park, San Diego, Calif., 92101. General Information, (619) 232-7931, Group Sales: (619) 696-1935, Website: <http://www.sdmart.org> Twitter: @SDMA, Instagram: @SanDiegoMuseumofArt Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/TheSanDiegoMuseumofArt>

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