

Exhibition: *Kaz Oshiro: Chasing Ghosts*  
On View: January 24—June 7, 2014  
Location: Charles White Elementary School



(Los Angeles—January 6, 2014) The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) presents *Kaz Oshiro: Chasing Ghosts* at Charles White Elementary School as part of its ongoing engagement with the museum’s surrounding community. Los Angeles–based artist Kaz Oshiro is recognized for his re-creations of full-size replicas of everyday objects, including microwaves, dumpsters, and file cabinets. Many of his works appear as ready-made objects, however, they are constructed mostly from canvas. By using painting materials to fabricate sculpture, Oshiro’s work blurs the distinction between two media. *Kaz Oshiro: Chasing Ghosts* will feature new works by the artist, a collaborative project created by the artist and Charles White Elementary School students, and objects from LACMA’s permanent collection selected by Oshiro, including works by artists Lee Krasner, John Altoon, and Mark Grotjahn. Also, Kaz Oshiro’s *Dumpster (Yellow and Blue Swoosh)* (2010), a recent gift to LACMA’s collection, will be on view in the Charles White Elementary School Gallery for the first time since being acquired in 2012.

“I am excited to share my creative process with the students of Charles White Elementary School,” comments artist Kaz Oshiro. “My hope is that the students and a broader audience will connect to the new collaborative work and have a greater appreciation for art.”

Exhibition co-curator Sarah Jesse, LACMA’s associate vice president of education, remarks, “This project not only provides students with direct access to original works of art, but it also instills firsthand knowledge of the processes by which they were made.

Seeing Oshiro demonstrate the capacities of everyday items, such as a broom or squeegee, as implements to make paintings expanded their definition of art and an artist's tools beyond a paintbrush. The collaborative works in the show made by Oshiro and the students document this creative awakening, offering a glimpse into the limitless possibilities for creating art.”

Co-curator Nancy Meyer, assistant curator of contemporary art, adds, “Kaz Oshiro's artwork may seem straightforward, but it is rich with ideas. He uses the conventional materials of painting—paint, canvas, and frame—to make sculpture, and he employs the properties of sculpture to making paintings.”

The museum has a longstanding relationship with schools and community organizations throughout Southern California as part of Art Programs with the Community: LACMA On-Site, an ambitious multiyear partnership that has provided art programs and materials to schools, libraries, and community organizations throughout LAUSD since 2006. A variety of education programs provide hands-on activities and discussions about art in classrooms, libraries, and public exhibition spaces throughout the region. *Kaz Oshiro: Chasing Ghosts* is the sixth LACMA-organized exhibition at Charles White Elementary School, which opened in 2004 on the former campus of Otis College of Art and Design. The school is named after the artist Charles White (1918–1979), who lived in the area and who taught at Otis for many years. Prior exhibitions at the school include *Shinique Smith: Firsthand; A is for Zebra; L.A. Icons: Urban Light and Watts Towers* (with artists Pato Hebert and Ball-Nogues Studio); *Journeys | Recorridos* (with artist Marysa Dowling); and *SWAP* (with artists Mark Bradford and Ruben Ochoa).

### **Kaz Oshiro Bio**

Kaz Oshiro was born in 1967 in Okinawa, Japan, and immigrated to the United States in 1986. He completed his bachelor and master of fine arts degrees at California State University, Los Angeles, and has exhibited in the United States and abroad at the Asia Society and Museum (New York), the Hammer Museum (Los Angeles), and the Las Vegas Art Museum, among others. Recent solo exhibitions include Honor Fraser Gallery (Los Angeles), Galerie Frank Elbaz (Paris), and Galerie Emmanuel Perrotin (Hong Kong). Recent group exhibition venues include the Walker Art Center (Minneapolis), the Museum of Contemporary Art (San Diego), and the Museum of Contemporary Art (Denver).

**Charles White Elementary School Gallery Location:**

2401 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90057

**Opening Reception: Friday, January 24, 2014 | 6–8pm**

DJ and composer Elan Polushko spins a curated selection of vinyl inspired by the exhibition.

Enter the gallery at the corner of Park View Street and Wilshire Boulevard.

Parking available at the parking garage off of Carondelet between Wilshire and 6th streets. Tickets validated at the gallery.

**Charles White Elementary School Gallery Hours**

February 8, March 8, April 12, May 10, and June 7, 2014 | Open noon–4:30pm

**Credit**

This exhibition is organized by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. This exhibition is made possible through the Anna H. Bing Children's Art Education Fund. Education programs at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art are supported in part by the William Randolph Hearst Endowment Fund for Arts Education and the Margaret A. Cargill Arts Education Endowment.

**Image Captions:**

(Left and Right) Kaz Oshiro, *Dumpster (Yellow with Blue Swoosh)*, 2010, gift of Steven Hull and Tami Demaree, Yasmine Benyamini, and Samuel Kashani, © Kaz Oshiro

**About LACMA**

Since its inception in 1965, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) has been devoted to collecting works of art that span both history and geography, in addition to representing Los Angeles's uniquely diverse population. Today LACMA is the largest art museum in the western United States, with a collection that includes over 120,000 objects dating from antiquity to the present, encompassing the geographic world and nearly the entire history of art. Among the museum's strengths are its holdings of Asian art, Latin American art, ranging from pre-Columbian masterpieces to works by leading modern and contemporary artists; and Islamic art, of which LACMA hosts one of the most significant collections in the world. A museum of international stature as well as a vital part of Southern California, LACMA shares its vast collections through exhibitions, public programs, and research facilities that attract over a million visitors annually, in addition to serving millions through digital initiatives, such as online collections, scholarly catalogues, and interactive engagement at [lacma.org](http://lacma.org). Situated in Hancock Park on over 20 acres in the heart of Los Angeles, LACMA is located between the ocean and downtown.

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