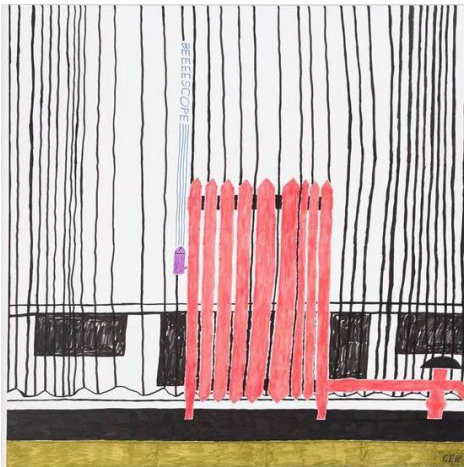


# Institute of Contemporary University Art of Pennsylvania

118 S. 36th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104  
www.icaphila.org

NEWS RELEASE



Christopher Knowles, *Untitled*, 2014, oil marker on canvas, 40 x 40 inches. Courtesy the artist and Gavin Brown's Enterprise, New York.

## CHRISTOPHER KNOWLES: IN A WORD

SEPTEMBER 16–DECEMBER 27, 2015

AUGUST 17, 2015

PHILADELPHIA, PA

The Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania is pleased to present *Christopher Knowles: In a Word*. Christopher Knowles (born 1959, New York; lives Brooklyn) is regarded as a poet and painter, yet his output is broader than this suggests. This exhibition, his most comprehensive to date, spans many mediums—text, sound, painting, drawing, sculpture, and performance—including pieces made in collaboration with esteemed theater director Robert Wilson. The work records and reorders the everyday materials around us using incantatory rhythms and repetition. Typings of language permutations, reimagined song lyrics, interlocking blocks of raw color commonly depict family and close friends. Sculptures are precise and direct in construction: polka-dotted cones, brilliantly hued paper cutouts, Lego structures, and accumulations of wind-up alarm clocks. Performances feature daily routines rendered into theatrical exaggeration. Taken together, Knowles's art places him squarely in the tradition of Laurie Anderson, Joseph Beuys, Stuart Sherman, Paul Thek, and other twentieth-century artists who opened a large window on do-it-yourself production, interiority and the shifting registers with which an artist's voice can enunciate in social settings.

Co-organized by Chief Curator Anthony Elms and guest curator Hilton Als, writer and chief theater critic for *The New Yorker*. A fully illustrated catalogue, published later in 2015, will include essays by the curators, a reprint of an autobiographical text by Knowles, and a new essay by art historian Lauren DiGiulio.

### CONTACT

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Christopher Knowles, *The Sundance Kid Is Beautiful*, 2013. Photo: Julian Mommert.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

ICA IS LOCATED AT:

118 SOUTH 36TH STREET AT THE  
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#### MUSEUM HOURS

WEDNESDAY, 11AM–8PM

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, 11AM–6PM

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, 11AM–5PM

FREE. FOR ALL.

FREE ADMISSION IS COURTESY OF  
AMANDA AND GLENN FUHRMAN.

#### Biography:

**Christopher Knowles's** artworks have been exhibited around the world, including: Museum Boymans-Van Beuningen, Rotterdam; *Of Mice and Men: 4th Berlin Biennial for Contemporary Art*, Berlin; Institute of Contemporary Arts, London; and the Museum of Modern Art, New York. He has performed solo or as part of the Byrd Hoffman company extensively, including: *White Columns*, New York; *Thalia Theatre*, Hamburg; *The Kitchen*, New York; the Louvre Museum, Paris; and touring duets with Robert Wilson the world-over.

#### Related programs:

October 7, 6:30PM: Conversation: Hilton Als and Anthony Elms on Christopher Knowles

October 12, 6:30PM: Lauder Lecture on Contemporary Art: Robert Wilson

November 11 & 12, [TIME TK]: Christopher Knowles Performance: *The Sundance Kid Is Beautiful*

Major support for *Christopher Knowles: In a Word* has been provided by the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Additional funding has been provided by Pamela Toub Berkman & David J. Berkman, Julie & Larry Bernstein, Charles X Block, Carol T. & John G. Finley, Cheri S. & Steven M. Friedman, Gavin Brown's Enterprise, Kirk Kirkpatrick, Toby Devan Lewis, and Mari & Peter Shaw.

Support for *The Sundance Kid Is Beautiful* at ICA has been provided by the Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation.

This exhibition travels to the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston in 2017.