ICA Debuts New Series OUTSIDE IN by Na Kim on September 17, 2021

Large-Scale Installation Visually Transforms ICA’s 36th Street Façade, Ramp, and Common Spaces with Bold Color, Shapes, and Patterns

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The Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania is pleased to present **FFC on 6, 7, 8**, the inaugural **OUTSIDE IN** commission by graphic designer Na Kim. A new collaboration with Maharam, a forward-thinking textile company based in New York known for its interdisciplinary collaborations that bring fresh perspectives to design, this series visually transforms ICA’s 36th Street façade, ramp, and common areas—spaces that have a distinct presence—inviting viewers to experience the work from multiple vantage points. **FFC on 6, 7, 8** is on view through July 10, 2022.

To launch **OUTSIDE IN**, ICA has invited the conceptually-driven graphic designer Na Kim who works between Seoul and Berlin. Known for her use of bold colors, shapes, and patterns inspired by everyday life, her work often expands beyond the page and into the creation of dynamic installations and environments.

“It is exciting to work with a designer like Na Kim whose work balances a research-based, conceptual approach with a dynamic formalism,” says Alex Klein, Dorothy and Stephen
R. Weber (CHE ’60) Curator. “In her installation, **FFC on 6, 7, 8** she brings her two-dimensional investigations to life in space and at architectural scale. Kim has observed that she is giving ICA a ‘new outfit’ for a new season, but she has also brought a new rhythm and welcoming energy to the experience of ICA’s building.”

**FFC on 6, 7, 8** or “From Found Composition,” is an ongoing project for Kim based on common sticker sheets she collects from office supply stores. The installation is inspired by architect Adèle Naudé Santos’s original vision for ICA’s building, which embraced the potential of its location as a nexus where the Penn campus meets the city, using its large glass windows to connect people with the art inside and life on the street. Bringing renewed attention to the building’s grid structure, **FFC on 6, 7, 8** spans from the eastside windows into the lobby, mezzanine, and beyond, animating what Kim describes as the “social conscious” of ICA.

For each **OUTSIDE IN** commission, ICA will invite an artist, poet, or designer to collaborate with Maharam on a site-specific installation at the ICA. The artist will have the opportunity to maximize Maharam’s design expertise to engage visitors and passersby while animating the building in unexpected ways.

“I have long admired Maharam’s rigorous commitment to supporting artists and designers across varied disciplines which very much aligns with our own mission and values,” says Zoë Ryan, Daniel W. Dietrich, II Director. “Their art-forward approach makes Maharam a natural partner as we envision together opportunities to activate ICA’s building, opening it out onto the street in dynamic ways that are visually exciting and welcoming to first-time and return visitors.”

Related programming with the artist will take place virtually this spring. More information can be found online at [www.icaphila.org](http://www.icaphila.org).

The exhibition is organized by Alex Klein, Dorothy and Stephen R. Weber (CHE ’60) Curator. Support for **OUTSIDE IN** is provided by Maharam. Installation designs are provided courtesy of the featured artist.

**ABOUT NA KIM**

Na Kim (born 1979, Gwangju, South Korea; lives in Berlin) is a graphic designer based in Seoul and Berlin. After studying product design and graphic design in Korea, Kim participated in Werkplaats Typografie in the Netherlands. She is currently running the collective platform, Table Union in Berlin and
since 2016 has been a member of the Alliance Graphique Internationale (AGI). From 2009—2011 she was responsible for the concept and design of GRAPHIC magazine and has initiated a series of projects based on her monograph, SET since 2015. Kim has exhibited her work at venues including MMCA and SeMA, Seoul; the Victoria & Albert Museum, London; MoMA, New York, and the Triennale Milano, Milan.

ABOUT MAHARAM

Founded in New York in 1902, Maharam is a leading creator of textiles for commercial and residential interiors. Recognized for its holistic commitment to design, Maharam embraces a range of disciplines from product, graphic, and digital design to art and architecture. The Maharam Design Studio’s dedication to aesthetic and industrial innovation in textile design is augmented by long-term, interdisciplinary collaborations. Represented in the permanent collections of the Art Institute of Chicago, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Stedelijk Museum, among others, Maharam partners with a range of cultural and educational institutions to honor design history and encourage critical dialogue. Maharam is the recipient of the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum Patron Award for its longstanding support of art and design.

ABOUT MAHARAM DIGITAL PROJECTS

Maharam Digital Projects is an ongoing series of digitally printed, large-scale wall installations designed in partnership with emerging and established artists. Initiated in 2009, the collection has grown to include over 100 projects with artists including Polly Apfelbaum, Teresita Fernández, Spencer Finch, Liam Gillick, Marilyn Minter, and Sarah Sze and renowned designers such as Hella Jongerius, Karel Martens, and Paul Smith.

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART | UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

The Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania is a non-collecting institution that develops and presents exhibitions, commissions, events, publications, and special projects that champion new, experimental, and underrecognized artists and ideas. ICA is committed to developing research at the intersection of interdisciplinary artistic practice and creating impactful experiences through our projects that support audiences in having meaningful connections with art and artists and encourage an exchange of ideas on art and society. ICA centers issues of equity and inclusion and social justice as core to our mission and is committed to advocating for artists, research, and dialogues that contextualize and resonate with the socio-political conditions of our time.