

**Unscripted Bal Harbour and Museum of Contemporary Photography at
Columbia College Chicago partner to present
public exhibition by iconic Nigerian-New York photographer Iké Udé**

MoCP director Natasha Egan curates Iké Udé's "Sartorial Anarchy" on beach walk



Captions: Iké Udé, "Sartorial Anarchy #8," 2013. Pigment on Satin Paper.

Iké Udé. Photo by Timothy Greenfield Saunders

Natasha Egan, Executive Director of MoCP, Chicago

For immediate release: *Miami/Chicago Dec 10: Unscripted*, the city of Bal Harbour's art program, partners with the Museum of Contemporary Photography at Columbia College Chicago (MoCP) to present a public exhibition of work by renowned Nigerian-American photographer Iké Udé. This is the second exhibition on Bal Harbour's beachwalk following a 70th year anniversary exhibition curated by Miami historian Dr. Paul George, and will feature 24 images selected by MoCP Executive Director Natasha Egan from Udé's renowned "Sartorial Anarchy" series as well as a curatorial text. Udé began his ongoing "Sartorial Anarchy" series in 2010, combining fashion, design and self-portraiture. Udé is portrayed dressed in a variety of culturally diverse garb amid colorful props and furniture selected by the artist for their historical and social significance. The result is a playful yet socio-politically dynamic images that conflate time and cultural references to function as visual cabinets of curiosity on Bal Harbour's jogging path. The exhibition will open with a private tour and public talk with Natasha Egan and Iké Udé on February 9, 2017 starting at 5pm.

Unscripted Bal Harbour curator Claire Breukel met MoCP director Natasha Egan on a 2014 Artis curatorial research trip to Tel Aviv and shared a love for photography.

Launching the Bal Harbour beachfront photography project in 2016, Unscripted Bal Harbour approached Egan to propose a show for the location. Having worked with Udé before, most recently on his solo exhibition “Nollywood Portraits: A Radical Beauty” at MoCP this past December, Egan connected the Bal Harbour’s renown as a fashion destination with Udé’s own penchant for fashion—both in his work and his own persona as a New York fashion icon.

MoCP Executive Director Natasha Egan explains:

“I think it is radical to set Iké Udé’s highly constructed vibrant color studio portraits within a natural outdoor beach walk setting. The beauty of nature as a backdrop to his highly stylized self-portraits that collapse time and geography though fashion is something worth contemplating while going for a run or a stroll along the Atlantic Ocean in Bal Harbour.”

This is the first public exhibition for Iké Udé in Miami who has shown widely throughout the US and Europe, and whose work is part many major collections including the Guggenheim Museum and Museum of Art + Design in New York. Iké Udé comments, “I’m rather thrilled at the opportunity to do this exhibition in Bal Harbour, and I thank Natasha Egan, Claire Breukel and Bal Harbour Village for choosing my work and making it possible.”

Iké Udé’s “Sartorial Anarchy” outdoor exhibition will be on view from February 9-May 31, 2017.

The exhibition was reviewed by the 2016 Unscripted Bal Harbour advisory committee Lisa Austin of LA + Associates, Meredith Johnson of Creative Time in New York and Rocio Aranda Alvarez, Curator at Museo del Barrio in New York. Unscripted Bal Harbour announces its advisory committee for 2017 to include Miami gallerist and photography expert Dina Mitrani, Andy Warhol Museum curator Jose Diaz and The Contemporary Baltimore director Deana Haggag who bring invaluable photography, public exhibition and contemporary art expertise to the program. The next exhibition is scheduled to open in November 2017 and will feature an exhibition curated by The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh.

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About Iké Udé

A Nigerian American, Iké Udé is also an aesthete, dandy, writer and founder of the seminal artfashion print magazine aRUDE, 1995-2009. He is the author of *Style File: the World's Most Elegantly Dressed*, published by Harper Collins in 2008. *Vanity Fair* included him in the magazine's International Best Dressed List in 2009 and 2012. He has exhibited in solo and group exhibitions and has been reviewed in *Art in America*, *The New Yorker*, *Art Daily*, *L'UOMO Vogue*, *Flash Art*, and *The New York Times*. Udé's work has been exhibited at the Rhode Island School of Design Museum, Providence (2013), the Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis (2014), the Tropenmuseum, Amsterdam (2014), the Palm Springs Museum of Art, Palm Springs (2015), and the National Academy Museum and School, New York (2015), amongst others. Udé's work is in the permanent collections of the Smithsonian National Museum, Washington D.C., The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, the Museum of Art and Design (MAD), New York, the New Britain Museum of American Art, CT, the Sheldon Museum of Art, Lincoln, NE, the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) Museum, Providence, RI and the Museum of Contemporary Photography at Columbia College Chicago, IL. He currently lives and works in New York.

About Natasha Egan

Since 2011, Natasha Egan has served as the executive director of the Museum of Contemporary Photography at Columbia College Chicago (MoCP), where she was previously the associate director and curator since 2000. She has organized over fifty exhibitions with a focus on contemporary Asian art and artists concerned with societal issues, such as the environment, war, and economics. Egan was a guest curator for the 2010 FotoFest Biennial in Houston, the 2016 Photo Dubai Exhibition and has juried international exhibitions. Egan has contributed essays to numerous publications and periodicals and lectures international. For over a decade, she taught in the photography and humanities departments at Columbia College Chicago, and holds a BA in Asian studies, MA in museum studies, and MFA in fine art photography.

About MoCP

The Museum of Contemporary Photography at Columbia College Chicago is the only museum in the Midwest with an exclusive commitment to the medium of photography and its evolving, interdisciplinary approaches. Founded by Columbia College Chicago in 1976, with a robust exhibition schedule and a growing permanent collection of over 14,000 works, the museum collaborates with artists, photographers, communities, and institutions locally, nationally, and internationally. The Museum is committed to broadening the visual arts by constantly searching for new national and international talent to exhibit rather than simply following suit established by larger institutions. To this end, the museum's programming guides the public to a greater understanding of thought-provoking contemporary photography as well as an appreciation for traditional work that has not yet received critical acclaim.

About Unscripted Bal Harbour

Unscripted Bal Harbour is the arts and culture program of Bal Harbour Village in Miami, Florida. Founded in 2012 and spearheaded by curator Claire Breukel, the program aims to provide unique access to the arts for its residents and guests, collaborate with the local, regional and international cultural community, and provide a platform for critical art dialogue. Unscripted's programs include an Art Access Card affording Bal Harbour residents and guests free year round access to Miami's premiere arts institutions, Art Tours to museums and private collections as well as a public Art Chats featuring international experts such as Tania Bruguera, Pablo Leon de la Barra, Don and Mera Rubell, Teresita Fernández, Mark Dion, Hank Willis Thomas, Jorge Perez, Candice Breitz, and many more.