Assistant's choice + Vik Muniz = rebus

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ARTIST'S CHOICE + VIK MUNIZ = REBUS
THE ONLY REASON FOR TIME IS SO THAT EVERYTHING DOESN’T HAPPEN AT ONCE.

—ALBERT EINSTEIN

PUBLIC PROGRAM

Vik Muniz on Artist’s Choice, Rebus
Wednesday, February 11, 6:30 p.m.
Theater 3 (The Celeste Bartos Theater)
4 West 54 Street (near Fifth Avenue)

Taking on the role of curator, Vik Muniz brought together eighty-two works from MoMA’s collection and organized them according to the principle of a rebus—a puzzle in which unrelated visual and linguistic elements create a larger deductive meaning. In this program, Muniz discusses the exhibition and his own work.

Tickets ($10; members $8; students, seniors, and staff of other museums $5) can be purchased at the lobby information desk, the film desk, or online at www.moma.org/thinkmodern.

MoMA AUDIO

A MoMA Audio program featuring commentary by Vik Muniz is available free of charge, courtesy of Bloomberg, on MoMA WiFi at www.moma.org/wifi and as a podcast at www.moma.org/audio and on iTunes. The audio program is available in English only. MoMA Audio is a collaboration between The Museum of Modern Art and Acoustiguide, Inc.

FORD FAMILY ACTIVITY GUIDE

A Ford Family Activity Guide developed by Vik Muniz encourages kids ages six and up to discover the connections among objects as they are displayed in the exhibition and, using small reproductions, arrange them to tell a story of their own. Pick up a Family Activity Guide at the education and family desk on the second floor of the Museum (next to Cafe 2) or at the information desk on the third floor.
THE HUMAN BRAIN RESPONDS DIRECTLY TO THE EYE’S INABILITY to process all the visual elements of a scene simultaneously. As our eyes move from one point to another, they create a continuous narrative that is perceived by the brain as a seamless whole. I have often contended that human consciousness emerged from the growing complexity of such optical narratives and our penchant for interacting with the world through cause-and-effect models, graphs, and timelines. The pleasure we derive from Rube Goldberg machines and rows of falling dominos is an echo of one of our most primitive perceptual handicaps. Attention is what enables us to capture a manageable vision of the world, by allowing us to ignore its natural complexity.

Generally, a group exhibition is an assembly of works by different artists arranged according to a chosen theme. However, just as mortar joins bricks together to make a building, the space, both physical and temporal, between works in a gallery is as important a component of an exhibition as the art itself. As a viewer moves through the sequential arrangement of an exhibition, the ideas and forms of each artwork linger and have a cumulative effect. This installation is not bound by a unifying theme, but instead invites the viewer to be conscious of the arrangement of works and aware of the perceptual connections they provoke.

A rebus is a puzzle that combines unrelated visual and linguistic elements to create a single narrative. Borrowing from the rebus’s simplified linear structure, I stripped my own group of visual elements (the artworks) from their original taxonomies and focused on forging intuitive connections based on form, color, scale, quantity, function, and pattern. This exhibition encourages viewers to think about the connections between each object and the next. Rebus is a cognitive, visual ride that I hope will affect how visitors experience art here and in the rest of the Museum.

—Vik Muniz

The exhibition is organized by Vik Muniz with Eva Respini, Assistant Curator, Department of Photography.

Vik Muniz is the ninth artist to participate in the Artist’s Choice exhibition series, in which artists select and install temporary exhibitions of works from the Museum’s collection.

The exhibition is made possible by Anne and Kenneth Griffin.
