



Christopher Cozier

*Gas Men*

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8 August – 10 August 2014

This publication was created on the occasion of Christopher Cozier's installation at the Marshall J. Gardner Center for the arts, Gary, Indiana, presented by moniquemeloche

moniquemeloche

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Derived from a recent series of drawings and tentatively called "The Gasmen" or "Globe," (Globe being a popular cinema in Port of Spain), **Christopher Cozier's** latest video installation investigates the problems of commercial expansion and political opportunism over culture and ethics. Through his drawings, prints, sound art, and now through his video work, he explores the dubious space of post-independence in the Caribbean and abroad. The "Globe" video was shot on Lake Michigan, a site that in recent years has witnessed repeated crude oil spills, care of British Petroleum's Whiting, Indiana plant. In casting, Cozier chose not professional actors, but two office workers from the administration offices of Northwestern University. The sound was recorded in Alice Yard with London based musician Caroline Mair –Toby, and Trinidadian sitarist Sharda Patasar.

**Christopher Cozier** is an artist and writer living and working in Trinidad. A 2013 Prince Claus Award Laureate, he has participated in a number of exhibitions focused upon contemporary art in the Caribbean and internationally. Cozier is a *SITE Sante Fe* - Satellite Curatorial Advisor for 2014. He has been an editorial advisor to *BOMB* magazine for their *Americas* Issues (Winter, 2003, 2004 & 2005) and was part of the editorial collective of *Small Axe, A Caribbean Journal of Criticism* (1998 - 2010). Additionally, Cozier was a co-curator of the exhibitions *Paramaribo Span* in 2010 and "Wrestling with the Image" in 2011. Since 2006, he has been one of the founders and administrators of Alice Yard, an experimental space and project in Port of Spain. Cozier's residencies include Dartmouth College and The Substation in Johannesburg. His work has been exhibited in the 1994 and 2000 Havana Biennials; Triennial Poli/Grafica de San Juan: America Latina y el Caribe (2009); *Afro Modern: Journeys through the Black Atlantic*, TATE Liverpool (2010), *The Global Africa Project*, Museum of Art and Design, New York (2010-11) and *Being and Island (Inseldesein)*, DAAD, Berlin (2013). His most recent one-person exhibition, *in Development*, was shown at David Krut Projects, New York in 2013.

#### **About the Miller Beach Arts and Creative District and Marshall J. Gardner Center for the Arts**

The Miller Beach Arts and Creative District (MBACD) is located on the southern shores of Lake Michigan, a short rail ride from downtown Chicago. Miller Beach, which has a long history as a creative community, is surrounded by the natural beauty of the Indiana Dunes National Lake shore. Founded in 2011, the MBACD is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, operating as a community development corporation. We operate a 5,000 square foot facility, the Marshall J Gardner Center for the Arts, as a

space for the presentation of visual and performing arts, along with an active schedule of other community events. The District, which stretches along Lake St. to the beaches of Lake Michigan, is also home to a diverse variety of small local businesses.

### **About the Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities**

The Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, building on a rich legacy of Northwestern accomplishments in each of the various disciplines, was established to organize and promote the kind of expansive, interdisciplinary discussion and debate that characterizes leading-edge humanities scholarship today. The Institute cultivates this work through an annual fellowship program for faculty working in the humanities, new undergraduate classes based on the research of Institute Fellows, visits by world-renowned humanists to campus for lectures and seminars, and co-sponsorship of concerts, lectures, film presentations, and other such events throughout the University.

### **Exhibition Partners:**

Department of Art History, the Department of Communication Studies, the Center for Global Culture and Communication, and the Latin American & Caribbean Studies Program at Northwestern University, and Miller Beach Arts and Creative District.





*Gas Men* (left), 2014  
*Gas Men 4* (right), 2014  
2 channel video



*Gas Men*, 2014  
Archival pigment print  
19 ½ x 29 ½ inches

# CHRISTOPHER COZIER

b. 1959 Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago, lives and works in Trinidad

## Education

- 1977-80 National Certificate, Graphic Design, J.S. Donaldson Technical Institute, Port of Spain, Trinidad
- 1983-86 B.F.A. Painting, The Maryland Institute, College of Art, Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.
- 1985 Studio Art Centers International, Florence, Italy.
- 1986-88 M.F.A. Visual Arts, Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey

## Solo Exhibitions

- 2014 *Gas Men*, presented by moniquemeloche at Marshall J. Gardner Center for the Arts, Gary, IN
- 2013 *Christopher Cozier: In Development*, David Krut Projects, New York, NY
- 2004 *Attack of the Sandwich Men*, A Space Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2002 *Terra Stories*, Kunsthallen Nikolaj, Copenhagen
- 2000 *Christopher Cozier: Intersection+*, Caribbean Contemporary Arts (CCA), Port of Spain

## Group Exhibitions

- 2013 *Inseldasein (Being an Island)*, daadgalerie, Berlin
- 2012 *Into the Mix*, Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, Louisville, KY
- 2011 *Fugitive Vision*, David Krut Projects, New York, NY  
*Caribes Globales*, Museo de Arte Contemporaneo de Puerto Rico, MAC, San Juan
- 2010 *Precious Paintings from Private Collections 2010*, 101 Art Gallery, Port of Spain
- 2009 *Rockstone and Bootheel*, Real Art Ways, Hartford, CT  
*X Bienal Internacional de Cuenca*, *Bienal Internacional de Cuenca*, Cuenca  
*2da Trienal Poli/Grafica de San Juan*, Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña, San Juan
- 2008 *HereThereEverywhere*, Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, IL
- 2007 *Equatorial Rhythms*, Stenersenmuseet, Oslo  
*Infinite Island: Contemporary Caribbean Art*, Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York City, NY  
*Reading the Image: Poetics of the Black Diaspora*, MSVU Art Gallery, Halifax, NS
- 2004 *Beauty Queens*, Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Victoria, BC
- 2001 *Políticas de la Diferencia: arte iberoamericano, fin de siglo*, MALBA Colección Costantini, Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires
- 2000 *7. Bienal de La Habana 2000*, La Bienal de La Habana, Havana
- 1999 *Foreword*, AMA Art Museum of the Americas, Washington, DC
- 1998 *Caribe - Exclusión, fragmentación y paraíso*, Museo Extremeño e Iberoamericano de Arte Contemporáneo MEIAC, Badajoz

## Selected Bibliography

- 2014 Bhatia, Pooja, "Portrait of the Artist as a Caribbean", *OZY*, January 21.  
Wendt, Selene, "Christopher Cozier: Instigator, Mentor and Cultural Leader", *ARC*, January 14.  
Drakes, Sean, "Contemporary Caribbean art longs for respect.", *MACO Caribbean Living*.
- 2013 "Christopher Cozier at David Krut", *Art in America*, January.
- 2011 "No More Than a Backyard on a Small Island", *ArcPost*, December.
- 2003 Paul, Annie, "Christopher Cozier", *BOMB Magazine*, Vol. 82, Winter.

## Residencies and Affiliations

Alice Yard, Port of Spain  
Dartmouth College  
The Substation, Johannesburg

**Editorial Work**

2003-05 "Americas" Issue Advisor, *BOMB Magazine*  
1998-10 *Small Axe, A Caribbean Journal of Criticism*

**Curatorial Work**

2014 *SITE Santa Fe Advisor*  
2011 *Wrestling with the Image*  
2010 *Paramaribo Span*

**Awards**

2013 Prince Claus Award



**moniquemeloche** was founded in October 2000 with an inaugural exhibition titled *Homewrecker* at Meloche's home, and officially opened to the public in May 2001. Working with an international group of emerging artists in all media, the gallery presents conceptually challenging installations in Chicago and at art fairs internationally with an emphasis on curatorial and institutional outreach.

**moniquemeloche**

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