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Cleveland's Front International triennial teams up with local museums for new commissions

Existing works by artists like Kerry James Marshall and Martine Syms will also be included in the show

by Victoria Stapley-Brown
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For its first edition this summer, titled *An American City*, the Front International Cleveland Triennial (14 July-30 September) is partnering with four local institutions—the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Museum of Contemporary Art (Moca) Cleveland, Oberlin College and the Akron Art Museum—to present new commissions and solo shows of artist like Kerry James Marshall and Martine Syms. The programming aims to “augment and enhance an understanding of what these institutions are” and is not “homogenous across the board”, says the triennial’s artistic director, the artist and curator Michelle Grabner (who shared the responsibility with a co-artistic director, the curator Jens Hoffmann, until his resignation last November).

At Oberlin’s Allen Memorial Art Museum, Barbara Bloom is exploring collection works that use multiple forms of perspective in one work—for instance, linear perspective and atmospheric perspective. She is making new sculptures, produced by a workshop in Cleveland, that are based off of some of these works. Bloom is also working with the museum’s team on an installation of mostly non-Western objects from the collection, that will be radically reframed. Covered with what Grabner calls “frame masks”, the works will be obscured in parts so that the viewer’s gaze will focus on specific pictorial conventions. “I love the idea of multiple perspectives and thinking about what that means in contemporary life—not just in pictorial space, but how we can interface with different realities that still coalesce,” Grabner says.