

Tim Rollins and K.O.S.
On The Origin

7 November – 28 December 2013
540 West 26th Street, New York

Opening reception: Friday, 8 November, 6 – 8 PM



New York, 16 October 2013— Lehmann Maupin is pleased to announce an exhibition of new work by Tim Rollins and K.O.S. on view at 540 West 26th Street from 7 November – 28 December 2013. *On The Origin* will mark the collective's third solo show at Lehmann Maupin and will feature a new series titled *On the Origin of Species (after Darwin)*, including two commanding sixteen-foot paintings and additional works inspired by Charles Darwin's seminal text which is considered to be the foundation of evolutionary biology. **Rollins and members of Kids of Survival will be present for an opening reception on Friday, November 8.**

To create *On the Origin of Species*, Rollins and K.O.S. appropriated a sketch from Darwin's 1837 notebook that puts his theory of evolution into visual form. The abstract diagram has a tree-like structure and is commonly referred to as Darwin's "Tree of Life." Working intuitively, the group copies, layers, and repeats Darwin's simple image over book pages to create a sprawling complex configuration. Through this act of repetition and duplication, Rollins and K.O.S. explore the essence of Darwin's ideas in both form and action. The repetition of the simple form, each stemming from the one before, to create a greater construction illustrates Darwin's theory. Rollins and K.O.S. also relate this process to a model for social action, noting the ability for one idea or person to inspire and create an outcome greater than the individual. This ideal forms the root of the collective's practice, which seeks to engage with a greater audience on both aesthetic and social issues.

Rollins and K.O.S's collaboration now spans over three decades and in its longevity is unprecedented in the history of contemporary art. By challenging the notion of sole or individual authorship, they have paved the way for today's widespread collaborative practices. With participants ranging in age from 10 to 42 years old, Tim Rollins and K.O.S. have maintained a fluid group that has allowed members to evolve both individually and collectively since its inception in 1980.

The group is currently preparing for an upcoming solo exhibition at the Savannah College of Art and Design's Museum of Art, Georgia, in February 2014.

Tim Rollins (b. 1955, Pittsfield, Maine) studied fine art at the University of Maine and earned a BFA from the School of Visual Arts in New York. After graduate studies in art education and philosophy at New York University, Rollins began teaching art for special education middle school students in a South Bronx public school. In 1984, he launched the Art and Knowledge Workshop in the Bronx together with a group of at-risk students who called themselves K.O.S. (Kids of Survival). In 1997, the documentary, *Kids of Survival: The Art and Life of Tim Rollins & K.O.S.* was widely received at the London Film Festival, Cinema de Real, France and the Hamptons International Film Festival.

Since its inception, the group has exhibited extensively worldwide, include presentations at The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York (2013); Hayward Gallery, London (2012); Museum fur Gegenwartskunst, Basel (2012); Galleria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Bergamo, Italy (2011); Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington D.C. (2011); and the Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2006). A retrospective of the group's 20-year career opened at the Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College in 2009 and travelled to the Frye Museum, Seattle and the ICA Philadelphia later that year. A fully illustrated hardcover catalogue, co-published by the Tang Museum and MIT Press, accompanied the exhibition. The group's work is represented in nearly 100 prestigious public collections, including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C.; Tate Modern, London; Smithsonian Museum of American Art, Washington D.C. and Dallas Museum of Art, Texas, among others.

Tim Rollins and K.O.S. are based in New York City.

[Image caption: *On the Origin of Species (After Darwin)*, 2013, ink and watercolor on book page mounted on wood panel, 36 x 48 inches, 91.4 x 121.9 cm.]

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