



Bruce Conner, *Bombhead*, 2002. Pigmented inkjet print on paper, 32 x 25 in.
Courtesy Magnolia Editions, Oakland, CA.
© Conner Family Trust, San Francisco / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art presents
Bruce Conner: Somebody Else's Prints
February 7 – May 16, 2015

60 Years of Prints by Internationally Recognized and Iconic
Beat Generation Multimedia Artist

Press Contact: Cathy Kimball, Cathy@sjica.org

San Jose, CA -- The San Jose Museum of Contemporary Art will open an exhibition of prints by Kansas native and Bay Area-based multimedia artist Bruce Conner (1933-2008) on February 7, 2015. Spanning nearly 60 years of work, *Bruce Conner: Somebody Else's Prints* is the first in-depth examination of his achievements as a printmaker in over a decade and features rarely seen examples from the Conner Family Trust and private collections. The exhibition is on view through May 16, 2015.

A fixture in the San Francisco Beat-era art scene in the 1950s and 1960s, Conner was renowned for his groundbreaking work in assemblage, painting, sculpture, and experimental film. The Wichita, Kansas native never worked with one medium for long, and infamously shifted personas and attributed his artwork to celebrities, such as actor and friend Dennis Hopper, and fake personas alike.

Printmaking is one medium that spans Conner's entire career. Bruce Conner: Somebody Else's Prints will feature around 100 works, from the first etchings and lithographs the artist made while still a young student in Kansas in 1944 to his last inkjet prints made with Photoshop in 2003. In addition, rare ephemera from the archives of the Conner Family Trust will be on view, including photographic slides used when he was part of a group that performed experimental light shows for bands like Big Brother and the Holding Company and the Grateful Dead.

Organized by the Ulrich Museum at Wichita State University, the exhibition draws on the wealth of Conner material in the Ulrich Collection, in Wichita, and in Kansas, I felt it was important to do an exhibition that focused on his works on paper—a barely examined part of his work that reveals much about his artistic practice.

The ICA presentation has been generously supported by Applied Materials Foundation, The Mercy and Roger Smullen Family Trust, John Green and Martin Fox, and members of the ICA Directors Circle.

The ICA gratefully acknowledges support from the Office of Cultural Affairs for the City of San Jose, Silicon Valley Creates, and from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. The ICA is also supported in part by the Applied Materials Foundation, and members of the ICA.