This ain't no retrospective, it's a Destroy All Monsters Exhibition. Such distinctions and hitherto hindsight make no sense when discussing the artist collective. Formed at a house party in Ann Arbor in 1973 by its core members (Cary Loren, Mike Kelley, Jim Shaw, and Niagara), Destroy All Monsters were both a band and an art-making body that sustained itself on mulching culture; chewing up and reassembling the detritus that had been handed to them using the most base and easily accessible means of production: photocopiers, crayons, markers, department store guitars, broken drum machines, etc.

Along with the material they dismantled and reassembled was the notion of the singular artist as genius model that has dominated western art history. The body of work they produced was and remains a creation of Destroy All Monsters.

Their unique collaboration, which continues to this day, formed a blueprint for many bands and artists collectives that came after them. In this exhibition we see Destroy All Monsters rearing its head on its own tale, taking apart its own history and pushing onto walls and into vitrines in new patterns that go beyond simple collage and montage, carrying with it the essence of collaboration that is uniquely Destroy All Monsters. Like an orb in the night, the material dances around each other, flashing and flickering, leaving you with a jaw drop, a collaboration formed out of cheap one offs.

JAMES HOFF
KING KONG IS BACK!

Hungry for St. Louis

Destroy All Death

with the singular artist

chewing up

The body of Monsters.

In this work

dismantled material
culture machines,


it's a Destroy All retrospective,
hindsight makes

as genius model, photocopiers, etc.

I have used the

the most
Destroy All Monsters: Hungry For Death
Curated by James Hoff and Cary Loren

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

"MAN BAY" 80. SOME THINGS I ONLY KNOW INSTRUMENT, IT CAN CREATE THE INITIAL-through MY DREAMS. 81. "I THINK MUSIC IS AN PEOPLE." (JOHN COTRANE) 82. "HATE FOR THOUGHT PATTERNS THAT CAN CHANGE THE THINKING OF AS FAR AS YOU CAN INTO THE ABSOLUTE REAL, IF NOT YOUR EYES IN." (MARCUS DUJAS) 83. GO WON'T FLOAT AWAY. 84. "WE SHOULD ALL STAR THIS WORLD, DREAMS WILL anchor YOU SO YOU STUPID, SO ARE REGRETS." (MARILYN MONROE) TO LIVE BEFORE WE GET TOO OLD, FEAR IS FOR HIMSELF." (HERBERT MARBURG) 87. THIS 88. "MAN IS NOT ONLY AGAINST HIMSELF BUT ALSO AND WORRIS NOT A POSSIBLE SADNESS AND WORLD IS BEAUTIFUL AND SWEET. FULL OF A GREAT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN KNOWLEDGE." (ALBERT SENSE OF DOOM, LOOK EVERYWHERE). 88. "IMAGINATION 1966) 90. "GIANT STEPS" (JOHNNY COLTRANE) 91. "PARENTS, TELL YOUR CHILDREN YOUR DREAM." (PSYCHEDELIC PROVERB) 92. "TO LIVE IN THE IDEAL WORLD IS TO TREAT THE IMPOSSIBLE AS IF IT WERE POSSIBLE." (GOD-THIE) 93. THE FRUIT OF THE OBSESSION COLLECTS THE DREAM, 94. DREAMS ORANGE ACTIONS IN A TRUE OPEN SYSTEM OF LIFE THEY CAN DO NO ISSUES. 95. "THE WORLD STAYS WITH DOWN AND STILL. IT IS TIME FOR ME TO HURRY TO WHERE I AM MOST NEEDED" (THE VISION/ A 1940s COMIC BOOK HERO) 96. BIRTH IS AN EXPERIMENT/ LIFE IS A VIOLENTLY DEATH AN ECSTATIC GOAL AND EVERYTHING INHERENT IS A DREAM A MIRACLE. 96. "THINK SLOG, ACT FAST." (BUSTER KEATON) 97. "BUT I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD RUN AROUND TRYING TO LOVE SOMEBODY WHO DOESN'T LOVE US." (MALCOLM X, DETROIT 1965) 98. "THAT WHICH IS NOT DARING IS NOTHING." (KERNETH PATCHEN) 99. "FOR SOME OF US ALL WE CAN DO IS FIGHT FOR LESS REAL AND MORE REALITY WITHIN THE WORLD AS IF, 100. NO MORE POISON; CERTAIN WAYS OF LIVING AND LOVE BECOME SENSE AND THE-BREEDING ANTIDOTES OF AMAZING SENSENESS. FEELING GIVES WAY TO HEALING.

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