

**For Immediate Release**

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The **San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art** opens  
Innovative Exhibition in Collaboration with UCSC,  
Lick Observatory and artist Russell Crotty, Fall 2016



***Look Back in Time: Russell Crotty and Lick Observatory***  
**November 13, 2016 - February 19, 2017**

Presented in the Main Gallery, Focus Gallery and the Cardinale Project Room

The San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) will present ***Look Back in Time: Russell Crotty and Lick Observatory***, an innovative exhibition featuring work by internationally recognized artist Russell Crotty alongside an extensive selection of never-before-exhibited objects from Lick Observatory's historical collections. The exhibition is on view November 13, 2016 - February 19, 2017, in the ICA's Main Gallery, Focus Gallery and Cardinale Project Room. The opening reception will be held on November 13, Members Preview 1-2 p.m. and Public Reception 2-4 p.m.

San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art  
560 South First Street, San Jose, CA 95113  
Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 10am-5pm and Saturday & Sunday, 12pm-5pm



Organized for the ICA by the Institute of the Arts and Sciences (IAS) at UC Santa Cruz, the exhibition premieres a large-scale, site-specific installation by IAS artist-in-residence Russell Crotty, along with a selection of the artist's previous work based on astronomical observations. *Look Back in Time* also delves into the history of astronomy, unveiling a rich selection of artifacts from Lick Observatory's historical collections that provide a singular look into the processes of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century observational astronomy. The juxtaposition of contemporary art and historical objects brings the scientific and the aesthetic together in a unique, experimental pairing.

*Look Back in Time* is the culmination of an unusual, two-year collaboration between the ICA, IAS, University of California Observatories (UCO), the Lick Observatory Historical Collections Project, and Theoretical Astrophysics Santa Cruz, a faculty-working group at UC Santa Cruz. According to Cathy Kimball, ICA's Executive Director, "This project represents a model partnership between a public university and an urban, non-profit contemporary art space, demonstrating the value of collaborations that leverage the research capacities of higher education in the service of public arts programming."

According to Tony Misch, the exhibit's co-curator and director of the Lick Observatory Collections, the exhibit's title has a dual meaning: "First, it refers to 'lookback time'—the fact that the light that reaches our telescopes shows us images from the past: the greater the distance the light has traveled, the older the image. Second, the exhibit looks back at the early years of astronomy at Lick."

In the ICA's Main Gallery, Crotty will create an immersive environment that includes drawing, sculpture, and fabric panels coated with bioresin. The site-specific installation is inspired by current theories about the development of the universe from just after the Big Bang to the present. Additional works in the gallery will offer a look back at Crotty's earlier work, offering a retrospective view of his passion for astronomy.

In the ICA's Focus Gallery, Lick's contribution to the exhibition will feature historical instruments, photographic plates, and written records from the observatory's collections. Visitors will see astronomer's logbooks, glass photographic plates of the Moon, planets, and Milky Way. Artifacts illustrating the arcane but crucially important work of astronomical spectroscopy introduce the dawning of astrophysics in the late 19th century. Along with the historical focus of the exhibition itself, a series of talks will look at some of the groundbreaking scientific work that continues at Lick.

Russell Crotty is known internationally for his drawings based on direct astronomical observation, and for works on the landscape, the ocean, and surfing, his other passion. Regarding his multi-visit residency at Lick Observatory, Crotty stated, "Just being on the mountain and being around the history, the archives,



seeing the historical telescopes, and seeing cutting-edge work and instruments – it was extraordinary.” Crotty is represented in major collections in the U.S. and Europe, including SFMOMA in San Francisco. In 2007, he was commissioned to create a site-specific installation of globe drawings for the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, China. In 2015, he was the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Lick Observatory has been studying the heavens from the summit of Mt. Hamilton, east of San Jose, since 1888. It remains, after more than 125 years, a vibrant research institution. In the course of the years, the observatory has accumulated an extraordinary collection illustrating the history of astronomy since its founding.

*Look Back in Time* is jointly curated by IAS Director John Weber, Tony Misch and Russell Crotty, in collaboration with the ICA’s Executive Director Cathy Kimball and the ICA staff.

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## **Related Events**

### **Opening Reception**

Sunday, November 13

Members-only: 1pm-2pm

Public Reception: 2pm-4pm

Free and open to the public

### ***Talking Art: In Conversation with Russell Crotty, Tony Misch and John Weber***

Moderated by Cathy Kimball

Sunday, January 22, 3pm-4pm

Reception to follow at the ICA, 4pm

ICA and Lick Members, \$10

Students, \$10

Non-members, \$15

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The Andy Warhol  
Foundation for  
the Visual Arts



The exhibition and associated residency are funded by grants from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the McEvoy Family Fund of the IAS, UC Santa Cruz Foundation, grants from the UCSC Arts Division and annual donors to the IAS and the ICA.

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