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September 12, 2013 – May 25, 2014

### Scott Hocking

*Coronal Mass Ejection*, 2013

Fiberglass, wood, paint, steel, iron, rust, epoxy, foam, slag, coke, dirt, stone, textiles, lamps, various adhesives, hardware, and found objects.

(Lower Level)



*Coronal Mass Ejection* began to evolve when Scott Hocking visited Pittsburgh in January of 2012. Hocking spent time exploring the Mattress Factory, Pittsburgh and the surrounding region, and was particularly drawn to the city's own abandoned spaces and industrial history. When visiting Carrie Furnace, Hocking was transfixed by the one remaining hot-metal train car (known as a torpedo or submarine car), used to transport molten iron across the Monongahela. It was (and is) a fascinating object: both masculine and feminine, industrial yet organic, and, to the untrained eye, a mysterious artifact of the industrial age.

The resulting installation is an amalgamation of various ideas, created site-specifically in the Mattress Factory's stone-lined Lower Level gallery. Inspirations came from local history and surroundings, including the Carrie Furnace torpedo car, the alchemical process, and the symbolic transformation of molten metal. It is also reflective of prehistoric creation and destruction mythology, as well as omnipresent fears of "end times" catastrophes, and the cycles of the sun. 2013 is the year of "solar maximum," from which the installation gets its title.

"It is all going to come together to create this mysterious object of worship that can symbolize anything you want. But I also like that it is going to be something people stumble upon on their way to the bathroom."

Hocking wants to evoke an unscripted reaction from visitors, and he believes that art can be mysterious, humorous, frightening and confusing in the same moment. His residency time at the Mattress Factory has helped connect Pittsburgh and Detroit in his mind as he explored Pittsburgh's own industrial history.

"This feels right...There is this real symbiotic relationship here. Detroit and Pittsburgh are part of the same industrial activity that seems to be a dying age. Pittsburgh is just a little ahead in terms of reinventing itself... What I don't want to happen is for the artwork to be seen as 'all about Detroit.' I try to get at bigger ideas."

Hocking grew up in Detroit, and has always enjoyed the city for exactly what it is. Despite the recent media interest in the city and negative viewpoints that often equate it with an apocalyptic wasteland, Hocking sees things differently. He finds solace in vacant spaces where the natural cycles have taken over, and is inspired by the beauty that comes from these transitions - whether it is a decaying factory, or the transformation of an entire city, like Detroit.

*Scott Hocking was born in Redford Township, Michigan in 1975. He has lived and worked in Detroit City proper since 1996. He creates site-specific sculptural installations and photography projects, often using found materials and forlorn locations. His artwork has been exhibited throughout the United States, Europe, Asia and Australia, and he is represented by Susanne Hilberry Gallery.*



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DESIGN 99  
SCOTT HOCKING  
RUSS ORLANDO

JESSICA FRELINGHUYSEN  
NICOLA KUPERUS & ADAM LEE MILLER  
FRANK PAHL

As the Mattress Factory celebrates its 35th Anniversary, it recalls the edgy creativity and entrepreneurial spirit at play during its founding with the presentation of new works by Detroit-based artists Design 99 (Gina Reichert & Mitch Cope), Jessica Frelinghuysen, Scott Hocking, Nicola Kuperus & Adam Lee Miller, Russ Orlando and Frank Pahl. While their environment connects each, the reactions these artists have to the swift socioeconomic changes happening in Detroit is vastly different and intensely powerful.

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