

WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT

Museum of Art and Design
Miami Dade College



SUPER REFLEX

WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT

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MUSEUM OF ART AND DESIGN MIAMI DADE COLLEGE #MOADMDC 15 NOV. 2018 21 APR. 2019

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This first large-scale survey of the critically acclaimed Danish collective SUPERFLEX in the United States focuses on the group's playfully subversive installations and films that deal with the economy, financial crisis, corruption, migration, and the possible consequences of global warming. The exhibition's title, *We Are All in the Same Boat*, envisions passengers together in a ship at sea, and a set of shared risks that may put them in danger. It suggests that if our boat sinks, we all sink with it. The title is both poetic and dark. It obviously refers to the simple importance of working together, but also to problems that we now face as part of the current global situation. Talk about change is not enough. We need to act. At times like these it is imperative to work together to find solutions to the most threatening problems we may ever have confronted.

Art has always responded to issues in the real world. While everybody talks about the weather, during the last two decades, global warming and climate change have been increasingly discussed and debated. A long tradition exists within the arts of discussing the relation and subject *human versus nature*, but recently the consequences of human impact, interference, and possible trigger of the twenty-first century's climate changes have echoed within the art world in a more activist way. SUPERFLEX has been at the forefront of artists who

grapple with many of these pressing subjects ever since its founding by Bjørnstjerne Christiansen, Jakob Fenger, and Rasmus Nielsen in 1993. SUPERFLEX looks at subjects that generate discussion around migration, alternative energy, political awareness, distribution of wealth and the power of global capital. The exhibition includes video, sculpture, installations, and participatory works selected for their relevance to the history, present, and future of the City of Miami. The works reflect upon the situation of Miami from the perspectives

of art, finance, climate, and a fictional, if plausible, future. The topics of water, migration, refugees, and the economy inevitably drive the exhibition. *We Are All in the Same Boat* includes the American debut of a number of the group's works in the show, several of which have been newly reimagined for our city. It also includes major new works commissioned by MOAD—*We Are All in the Same Boat* and *Euphoria Now*. In the installation *Lost Money* (2009), the artists affix coins to the floor, inviting both the visitors' acquisitiveness and frustration. The video *Flooded McDonald's* (2009) depicts just that, an entirely convincing replica of an uninhabited fast-food franchise slowly filling with water in a deadpan apocalyptic deluge. A *vanitas* painting extended in time, at ten days (240 hours) in length, *Modern Times Forever* (2011) is billed as "the longest film ever made," and depicts Helsinki's landmark Stora Enso building, designed by Alvar Aalto in 1962, as it falls into ruin and decay over the course of 5,000 years. The banners of *Bankrupt Banks* (2012) bear the corporate logos of failed financial institutions, representing an ironically triumphal celebration of global economic crisis since 2008. In *The Corrupt Show* (2013) visitors accept the bribe of a lollipop to sign a contract that commits them to actively participate, and to solicit others to participate, in corruption,

as defined by the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Hung on the wall, the signed contracts implicate the artists, the viewers, the museum, and the exhibition itself in public corruption, forgery, bribery, and embezzlement, which threaten the stability and security of society; undermine the institutions and values of democracy, ethics, and justice; and jeopardize sustainable development and the rule of law. The film *Kwassa Kwassa* (2015) follows a group of fishing boat builders on the island of Anjouan, part of the Comoro Islands, off Africa's southeastern coast. From there, fiberglass boats carry hopeful migrants seventy kilometers to Mayotte, a French territory that is the outermost region of the European Union. Yet more than 10,000 people have died making the dangerous journey. The exhibition will also include the American premiere of SUPERFLEX's newest film, *Western Rampart* (2018). Named after the Vestvolden, the last historical fortifications constructed to protect the city of Copenhagen, the work obliquely considers borders and migration through a conversation between a wall and a giant anthropomorphic mushroom. SUPERFLEX is known for its interest in unifying urban spaces and commenting on society through art. The artists describe their practice as the provision of "tools" that affect or influence a social or

economic context. Previous projects include paying visitors to enter their exhibition; the development and marketing of a new beverage, Free Beer; and the production of a self-sufficient, portable biogas unit to provide energy for a family. The group's projects are often rooted in their particular local contexts and outside traditional art contexts, collaborating with designers, engineers, businesses, and marketers on projects that have the potential for social or economic change. SUPERFLEX has worked with community groups, NGOs, and large architectural companies such as Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG) to realize their projects. They remain difficult to pigeonhole yet continue to innovate in their approach to current issues. The members of SUPERFLEX have used their position as artists to pose questions

Friday NOV.16 7:00–9:00 PM

Get on Board with SUPERFLEX: Join us on the Island Queen Cruise for a conversation with SUPERFLEX artist Bjørnstjerne Christiansen and Jacob Fabricius, curator of the exhibition, to discuss the group's work.

Leaving from Bayside Marketplace, 401 Biscayne Boulevard Boarding begins at 7:00 PM. The boat leaves promptly at 7:15 PM.

This is a ticketed event and space is limited: \$10 general admission; \$5 students with student ID. Please make a reservation at: <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3819622>.

Organized by MOAD, SUPERFLEX: *We Are All in the Same Boat* is curated by Jacob Fabricius, Artistic Director of Kunsthall Aarhus. Support for SUPERFLEX: *We Are All in the Same Boat* is provided by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, this.nordic, Funding Arts Network, the Danish Arts Foundation, and the Florida Department of State Division of Cultural Affairs.

of political, economic, and environmental behavior and responsibility. Through their work with contracts and instructions, SUPERFLEX has examined how we interact in public space. The group has looked at how small changes within language can break daily patterns and routines, how small linguistic "obstructions" enable us to act and think differently in social situations in daily life. The topics of workers' rights, copyrights, human rights, and environmental rights are real, they are global, and they are important; by twisting them slightly from their original context SUPERFLEX playfully manages to create conversations around these pressing issues. In the words of the exhibition's curator, "these works are meant to create political awareness, generate discussions, and help us think and act."



NOV.15 2018–APR.21 2019

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**Museum of Art and Design
Miami Dade College**

Freedom Tower, 2nd floor,
600 Biscayne Boulevard,
Miami, FL 33132

Hours are

Wednesday	1:00–6:00 PM
Thursday	1:00–8:00 PM
Friday	1:00–6:00 PM
Saturday	1:00–6:00 PM
Sunday	1:00–6:00 PM

**A program of
Miami Dade College**



Museum admission: \$12 adults; \$8 seniors and military; \$5 students (13–17) and college students (with valid ID); free for MOAD MDC members, MDC students, faculty, and staff, and children 12 and under

Accessibility challenges: please call (305) 237 7710 for details

For updates and a full schedule of events, please visit <http://www.mdcmoad.org>

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