

# ARTFORUM

SEPTEMBER 2016

## “Sanford Biggers: Subjective Cosmology”

**MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART  
DETROIT (MOCAD)**  
DETROIT

Through January 1, 2017

Curated by Elysia Borowy-Reeder

Over the past two decades, Sanford Biggers has woven references to African American culture, Eastern spirituality, and global music and dance traditions into patchwork myths and rituals. This exhibition promises to broaden our perspective on the artist’s ambitious speculative histories, with a presentation of recent and newly made site-specific works, including *Shatter*, 2016, which makes its debut here.

Following *Shuffle*, 2009, and *Shake*, 2011, *Shatter* is the final installment of Biggers’s multichannel video trilogy filmed at key points along the North Atlantic slave trade route that considers the undoing and reimagining of personal identity. *Shatter*’s three-screen installation will serve as a backdrop to an opening-night performance by Moon Medicin, Biggers’s Afrofuturist band. “Subjective Cosmology” will also feature the biggest iteration to date of *Laocoön*, 2015, a prostrate, semi-inflated, pulsating Fat Albert, the corpulent cartoon star of Bill Cosby’s animated series. A touchstone for the show, this work reflects on recent violence against African Americans as well as the loss of faith in public and authority figures, from Cosby himself to the US police.



**Sanford Biggers, *Laocoön* (detail), 2015, vinyl, electric air pump, 72 × 60 × 120". Installation view, David Castillo Gallery, Miami, 2015–16.**

— Daniel Quiles