

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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KIN+ **CARGO**

**EXPLORING BALTIMORE'S
SISTER CITIES**

Kin+Cargo: Exploring Baltimore's Sister Cities opens on **Thursday, April 3, 2014** at **McKeldin Square, corner of Pratt and Light streets**, in Baltimore's Inner Harbor. This public art exhibition will be **open daily** from **12pm to 7pm** through **Monday, April 21, 2014**. A free opening reception takes place Friday, April 4, 2014 from 6pm to 8pm. Kin +Cargo takes place in a PODS (Portable on Demand Storage) container and addresses the relationships Baltimore has cultivated with its Sister Cities over the past forty years. Each city is an active port city, and aligns itself with Baltimore's port heritage. The Sister Cities continue to develop these relationships in an effort to establish citizen diplomacy and international cooperation. However, both the port itself and the culture associated with it have changed significantly over time.

Working with the Sister City Committees of Rotterdam, Kawasaki, Xiamen, Piraeus, and Luxor-Alexandria, curator Ashley Molese has designed an exhibition that through humble and vernacular objects instigates possible narratives about these places and their residents, beyond the port. Kin+Cargo imagines a deeper commonality; through borrowed objects collected from the residents of the Sister Cities this exhibition explores the day to day living of people within these port cities.

Kin+Cargo challenges the conventional value of these objects by examining how objects take on meaning and generate mythologies, and how individuals imbue domestic objects with value. Stories and personal anecdotes accompany the objects that have been collected by residents of the Sister Cities who chose the objects for the exhibition. To reflect on these

narrative elements, Kin+Cargo recreates a domestic living space that imagines itself as part of the Sister City urban fabric and could belong in any of these cities.

Sound is also an important element of how a city defines and identifies itself, and mimics the sensory environment that cities inherently are. Sound art pieces by international artists Munchi, Fern Thomas, Minoru Sato and Cheesemind, and local sound collaborative Amalaise (Beth Brown and Jason Sloan) will contribute to this reflection on place. Kin+Cargo restages these sensory experiences to imagine the relationships people establish within their living spaces, how these take form, and how this can be translated to find a deeper commonality within these shared communities.

Kin+Cargo is curated by Ashley Molese for her Masters of Fine Arts in Curatorial Practice thesis at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA). The exhibition is generously supported by PODS containers, the Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts, the Sister City Committees of Baltimore, and the Maryland Institute College of Art Curatorial Practice Program.