**Inka Essenhigh: Manhattanhenge**
April 6, 2018–February 2019

Stairwell
Opening Reception, April 5, 2018, 6-8pm

For further information and images, please contact
Molly Gross, Communications Director, The Drawing Center
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January 19, 2018

New York – As part of its ongoing series of commissions for the stairwell, The Drawing Center has asked New York artist Inka Essenhigh to create a site-specific wall drawing. Essenhigh’s installation will be the third in the series, following Gary Simmons: *Ghost Reels* (2016–18) and Abdelkader Benchamma: *Dark Matter* (2015–16).

An artist whose influences range from Hokusai to Surrealism and Byzantine icons to graphic novels, Inka Essenhigh is known for her hallucinatory scenes that weave narratives about everyday life with otherworldly and science-fiction themes. For her panoramic installation in The Drawing Center’s stairwell, Essenhigh will illustrate the story of an imaginary contest staged on a New York City street in which new glass-and-steel condominiums with human attributes engage in a showdown with the city’s more conventional buildings. Drawn directly on the wall, Essenhigh’s anthropomorphic buildings will encircle the central motif of the drawing, a golden sunset that replicates “Manhattanhenge”—the effect of the sun when aligned precisely with the city grid—which has long been a mythic part of the city’s monumental architecture. Organized by Brett Littman, Executive Director.

**ABOUT INKA ESSENHIGH**

Essenhigh lives and works in New York and is represented by Victoria Miro Gallery, London. She has presented solo exhibitions at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts, Nashville; Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami; and the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY. Essenhigh has also been included in group exhibitions at The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Kunsthallen Brandts, Odense, Denmark; Royal Academy of Arts, London; the 26th São Paulo Biennial; Contemporary Arts Museum Houston; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Carré d’Art, Nîmes, France; Tate Gallery, Liverpool; MoMA PS1, New York; and the Center on Contemporary Art, Seattle.

**CREDITS**

*Inka Essenhigh: Manhattanhenge* is made possible through the support of Ameringer | McEnery | Yohe and Stacey and Rob Goergen.
ABOUT THE DRAWING CENTER
The Drawing Center, a museum in Manhattan’s SoHo district, explores the medium of drawing as primary,
dynamic, and relevant to contemporary culture, the future of art, and creative thought. Its activities, which
are both multidisciplinary and broadly historical, include exhibitions; Open Sessions, a curated artist
program encouraging community and collaboration; the Drawing Papers publication series; and education
and public programs.

LOCATION, HOURS & ACCESSIBILITY
35 Wooster Street between Broome and Grand Streets in SoHo, New York.
Gallery hours are Wednesday-Sunday 12pm–6pm, Thursday, 12pm–8pm.
Tickets: $5 Adults, $3 Students and seniors, Children under 12 are free, and
free admission Thursdays 6-8pm.

The Drawing Center is wheelchair accessible.

212.219.2166 | info@drawingcenter.org | drawingcenter.org

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AT THE DRAWING CENTER
Judith Bernstein: Cabinet of Horrors
Eddie Martinez: Studio Wall
Raha Raissnia: Alluvias
Winter Term: Torkwase Dyson and the Wynter-Well Drawing School for
Environmental Justice
Terry Winters: Facts and Fictions
Hipkiss: Bulwark
Eduardo Navarro: Into Ourselves

INSTALLATIONS
Gary Simmons: Ghost Reels
Susan York: Foundation in the Lab Corridor
Inka Essenhigh in the Stairwell

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Inka Essenhigh: Manhattanhenge
February 23, 2018–February 2019

Images Available for Reproduction

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Inka Essenhigh, Sketches for Manhattanhenge at The Drawing Center, 2017. Courtesy of the artist