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Dietrich Now on View and Opening Reception

Pensacola, FL – The Pensacola Museum of Art (PMA) is pleased to present a contemporary installation from local artist Filipe de Sousa from March 7 to April 5, 2014. **Opening Reception: March 7, 6pm.**

Statement from the artist: *Informed by my adolescent preoccupations with climbing and skateboarding, I create work, which responds to the unique characteristics of a project site. Much like finding ones anchor or imagining a trick on a handrail, I consider and utilize the conditions surrounding a location to produce spatial relationships, which weren't previously recognized. My use and treatment of standardized materials allows for some of the focus to remain on the viewers present relationship to the space and the objects therein; yet their arrangement is often influenced by forces outside of my control, such as architectural limitation and institutional regulations. Questioning the extent to which formal considerations are dictated by the conditions surrounding a space and imagining the possibilities for sculptural intervention in lieu of these conditions form my general methodology. Ultimately, my current body of work aims to confront both viewer and location; creating an occasion for considered experience.*

Dietrich is my response to the challenges presented by the Pensacola Museum of Art's Charles W. Lamar, Sr. Assembly Room. Due mostly to timing and doorway size the gallery was left occupied by a baby grand piano. This piano presented a unique obstacle in my efforts to create spatial relationships using the galleries architectural design. No matter the work I created, it seemed the piano would necessarily become a part of it. So, instead of being burdened by the musical mass, I decided to employ it. Taking advantage of the instruments weight I have utilized it as a counterbalance to the nearly 700 pounds of cardboard I have set upright in the room. The PMA's Assembly Room is also the only gallery space in the building that has windows, a characteristic I wanted to exploit since my first introduction to the space. With the help of industrial grade suction cups and ropes I have created a pivot point between the two objects while further distributing the galleries space.

The work is titled after Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German pastor and theologian who lived during Hitler's coming to power. He was one of the earliest champions of justice and equality for the Jews and eventually became involved in the coup to assassinate Hitler. His unwavering beliefs would lead to his imprisonment and death in a Nazi concentration camp. I am currently reading a biography on Bonhoeffer and decided that, in lieu of the piece being available for viewing during his birth month and existing in a former jail, I would dedicate the piece to him and his life. It is my first dedication. An unforeseen coincidence of this piece is that Dietrich was known for his fantastic piano playing.

Museum hours are Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Saturday 12:00-5:00 p.m. The Museum is closed Sundays and Mondays. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students, seniors and active duty military. Children under 5 are free. The last Tuesday of the month is free admission. For more information about the Museum call (850) 432-6247, visit the website at www.pensacolamuseum.org or log on to Facebook at [facebook.com/pensacolamuseumofart](https://www.facebook.com/pensacolamuseumofart)

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