

## ARTFORUM

DETROIT

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### **"TOM HOUSE: THE WORK AND LIFE OF TOM OF FINLAND"**

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit

April 19–May 19

*Curated by Durk Dehner, S.R. Sharp, and Graeme Flegenheimer*

Bust out the poppers: Tom of Finland's leather boys are hitting Detroit. Goons whining about perversion and pornography in the presence of his illustrations don't know sublime weirdness when it strips for them. Classical sculptures on steroids emitting an angelic glow, Finland's bodies have the same sci-fi sexiness as H. R. Giger's aliens, complete with nuclear-missile dicks and flesh that looks like latex. MOCAD shows them off inside Mike Kelley's *Mobile Homestead*, amid juicy photographs, ephemera, and works from Finland devotees such as John Waters, Richard Hawkins, and Raymond Pettibon, creating an art-historical biker gang at once homoerotic and magical. They all transform so-called trash into beauty. Free your mind and your ass will follow.

—*Charlie Fox*