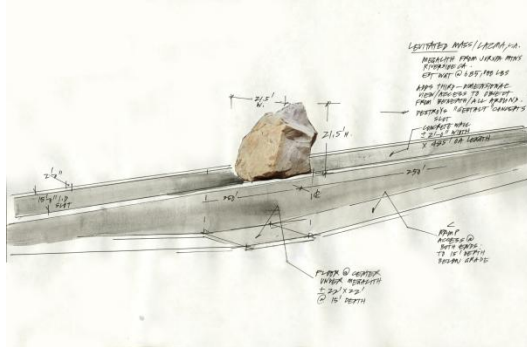




## LEVITATED MASS BACKGROUND



(IMAGE CAPTIONS ON PAGE 3)

## DESCRIPTION

The newest monumental outdoor artwork to be installed at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) is Michael Heizer's [\*Levitated Mass\*](#)—a 456-foot-long concrete slot constructed on LACMA's campus, over which sits a 340-ton granite megalith. As visitors walk along the slot, it gradually descends to fifteen feet deep, running underneath the boulder before ascending back up. *Levitated Mass* will open to the public in spring/summer 2012 and will be situated north of the Lynda and Stewart Resnick Exhibition Pavilion, near the museum's 6<sup>th</sup> Street entrance.

*Levitated Mass* was made possible by private gifts to *Transformation: The LACMA Campaign* from Jane and Terry Semel, Bobby Kotick, Carole Bayer Sager and Bob Daly, Beth and Joshua Friedman, Steve Tisch Family Foundation, Elaine Wynn, Linda, Bobby, and Brian Daly, Hanjin Shipping Co., Ltd., Richard Merkin, MD, and the Mohn Family Foundation. It is dedicated to the memory of Nancy Daly, former chair of LACMA's board of trustees and an influential advocate for children and the arts in Los Angeles. Transportation of the megalith was made possible by Hanjin Shipping.

*Levitated Mass* was originally conceived by Heizer in 1968; a drawing of the concept is in the collection of the Staatliche Museen ze Berlin.

Heizer did not identify an appropriate megalith for the project until 2007, when the granite was quarried in nearby Riverside County.

Due to its massive size, the boulder requires a complex and thoroughly reviewed transportation process from its quarry to the museum, a distance of approximately 105 miles. Its transportation will take place over the course of roughly eleven nights, scheduled to commence on February 28, 2012. The transporter carrying the boulder will travel on a specially designated route—covering four counties (Riverside, San Bernardino, Orange, and Los Angeles) and twenty-two cities—with movement happening only at night. At 340 tons, the boulder is one of the largest megaliths moved since ancient times. For the route map and the most up-to-date information regarding the transport of the boulder, visit [lacma.org/levitatedmass](http://lacma.org/levitatedmass).

The boulder is one component of the greater artwork, which includes both the 456-foot-long slot beneath, and the surrounding environment—all devised by the artist. As with other works by the artist, such as *Double Negative* (1969) or *North, East, South, West* (1969/2002), the monumental negative form is key to the experiential nature of the artwork. Taken whole, *Levitated Mass* speaks to the expanse of art history—from ancient traditions of creating artworks from monolithic stones, to modern forms of abstract geometries and cutting-edge feats of engineering.

#### **Key statistics**

Weight	340 tons
Height	21 1/2 feet
Length of slot	456 feet
Depth of slot (at lowest point)	15 feet
Width of slot	15 feet

#### **MICHAEL HEIZER BIO**

Michael Heizer was born in Berkeley, California, in 1944. He attended the San Francisco Art Institute and moved to New York City in 1966, where he produced small-scale paintings and sculptures. In the late 1960s, Heizer left New York for California and Nevada, where he began to produce large-scale works that could not fit in a museum setting. His 1969 artwork *Double Negative* (now owned by the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles) inspired a movement known as Land Art and has influenced a generation of artists. Heizer currently lives in Nevada and is in the process of

completing his largest project, *City*, begun in 1972. Permanent installations of Heizer's sculpture can be found throughout the United States, from the federal courthouse in Reno, Nevada, to the Menil Collection in Houston, Texas, to the corner of 56th and Madison Avenue in New York City. Major exhibitions of his work have been presented at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; the Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy; and at the Museum Folkwang, Essen, Germany.


Heizer's grandfather, Olaf Heizer, was a geologist, and his father, Robert Heizer, was one of the most prominent archaeologists of his time. Among Robert Heizer's best-known work was his work in the deserts of the American West and his examination of the Olmec culture at the La Venta site in Tobasco, where he discovered large stone monuments similar to those recently on view at LACMA.

Other significant works by Michael Heizer include

- *Double Negative* (1969), a 1,500-foot-long trench cut into a desert mesa near Overton, Nevada (owned by the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles)
- *City* (1972-present), one of the largest sculptures ever created, covering a space of 1.25 miles long and .25 miles wide; comprised of five phases, each consisting of a number of structures, some as tall as eighty feet
- *Effigy Tumuli* (1983-1985), a work consisting of five different massive mounts that resemble abstracted animals, designed in the tradition of a Native American mound building; located in Buffalo Rock State Park near Ottawa, Illinois

## CREDIT

Michael Heizer, *Levitated Mass*, conceived 1968, realized 2011, dedicated to the memory of Nancy Daly and made possible by gifts to *Transformation: The LACMA Campaign* from Jane and Terry Semel, Bobby Kotick, Carole Bayer Sager and Bob Daly, Beth and Joshua Friedman, Steve Tisch Family Foundation, Elaine Wynn, Linda, Bobby, and Brian Daly, Hanjin Shipping Co., Ltd., Richard Merkin, MD, and the Mohn Family Foundation.

Transportation made possible by  HANJIN SHIPPING

### About LACMA

Since its inception in 1965, LACMA has been devoted to collecting works of art that span both history and geography and represent Los Angeles's uniquely diverse population. Today, the museum features particularly strong collections of Asian, Latin American, European, and American art, as well as a contemporary museum on its campus. With this expanded space for contemporary art, innovative collaborations with artists,

and an ongoing *Transformation* project, LACMA is creating a truly modern lens through which to view its rich encyclopedic collection.

**Location and Contact:** 5905 Wilshire Boulevard (at Fairfax Avenue), Los Angeles, CA, 90036 | 323 857-6000 | [lacma.org](http://lacma.org)

**Hours:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: noon-8 pm; Friday: noon-9 pm; Saturday, Sunday: 11 am-8 pm; closed Wednesday

**General Admission:** Adults: \$15; students 18+ with ID and senior citizens 62+: \$10

**Free General Admission:** Members; children 17 and under; after 5 pm weekdays for L.A. County residents; second Tuesday of every month; Target Free Holiday Mondays

**Images (page 1):** Left image: Michael Heizer, preliminary sketch for *Levitated Mass*, 2011, courtesy the artist, © Michael Heizer

**Press Contact:** For additional information, contact LACMA Communications at [press@lacma.org](mailto:press@lacma.org) or 323 857-6522.

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