

LACMA

LEVITATED MASS FAQ

1. WHAT IS LEVITATED MASS?

Levitated Mass is an artwork by Michael Heizer comprised of a 456-foot-long concrete-lined slot constructed on LACMA's campus, upon and at the center of which is placed a 340-ton granite megalith. As visitors walk along the slot, it gradually descends to fifteen feet deep, running underneath the megalith before ascending back up.

2. WHO IS MICHAEL HEIZER?

Michael Heizer was born in Berkeley, California, in 1944. He briefly attended the San Francisco Art Institute and moved to New York City in 1966, where he produced large-scale paintings. In late 1968–69, Heizer chose to operate between his studios in New York and a ranch he eventually built in Nevada. Here, he began to produce large-scale sculptures such as *Nine Nevada Depressions* and *Displaced/Replaced Mass*, as well as large earth drawings and paintings on dry lakes in California and Nevada. To interpret these immense sculptures in a gallery setting, Heizer developed his unique use of large-scale still photography in the form of collages and static projections. Several shows with oversize rock-in-floor depressions were produced in Los Angeles and New York with Ace Gallery. His 1969 artwork *Double Negative* (now owned by the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles) inspired generations of artists. Heizer is currently completing his largest project, *City*, begun in 1972. Permanent installations of Heizer's sculpture can be found throughout the United States, including Seattle, Washington; Oakland, California; the Menil Collection and Rice University in Houston, Texas; the MIT campus in Boston, Massachusetts and 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; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Fondazione Prada, Milan, Italy, and at the Rijksmuseum Kröller-Müller, Otterlo, Holland.

3. HOW WILL THE MEGALITH BE TRANSPORTED TO LACMA?

A transporter has been custom built for the project. The transporter is roughly 260 feet long and 32 feet wide. The large size of the transporter enables the weight of the rock to be distributed over 196 wheels, in such a way as to prevent road damage. Transportation will occur only at night and the transporter will travel down a pre-determined route at about 5–8 miles per hour. LACMA has worked with numerous city, county, and state agencies in acquiring proper permits and establishing the most prudent route for this endeavor.

4. WHO IS TRANSPORTING THE MEGALITH?

Emmert International, a company that specializes in transporting large-scale objects such as buildings, nuclear reactor components, and missiles.

5. HOW LONG WILL TRANSPORTATION TAKE?

Transportation will occur only at night over the course of eleven nights.

6. WHAT ROUTE WILL THE MEGALITH TRAVEL? WHAT CITIES WILL IT PASS THROUGH?

You can view the route, and daily updates as to its progress, at lacma.org/levitatedmass.

7. WHEN WILL THE MEGALITH ARRIVE TO LACMA?

It will arrive to LACMA in the very early morning hours of Saturday, March 10.

8. WHEN WILL LEVITATED MASS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC?

Levitated Mass will officially open to the public later this spring or early summer. Stay tuned to lacma.org for updates.

9. HOW DID LACMA PAY FOR THIS PROJECT?

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, and has been dedicated by LACMA to the memory of Nancy Daly.

Transportation is made possible by Hanjin Shipping Co., Ltd.

10. WILL ANY TAXPAYER MONEY BE USED TO COVER COSTS INCURRED DURING THE TRANSPORT, SUCH AS DAMAGE TO ROADS?

No. LACMA and Emmert International have been in continuous conversation with officials and engineers from each of the twenty-two cities which the transporter will pass through. With these cities' input and guidance, LACMA and Emmert have identified the safest, most accommodating route for this endeavor. The transporter has also been custom built expressly for the purpose of avoiding road damage. The entire project is insured to cover property damage.

11. HOW CAN LACMA JUSTIFY THIS EXPENSIVE PROJECT WHEN THE ECONOMY IS SUFFERING?

The *Levitated Mass* project is actually a positive benefit to the economy. From the construction teams on site who have been digging the 456-foot-long slot and preparing to install the megalith, to the transport company, to the permitting fees paid to twenty-two cities in four different counties for the transport, a great deal of the privately raised funds for *Levitated Mass* has gone directly into the local economy.

Additionally, we expect *Levitated Mass* to contribute to a long-term economic impact in Los Angeles. *Levitated Mass* has already received worldwide attention, and much like Chris Burden's *Urban Light* it will become a "destination artwork" for local, national, and international audiences. As audiences come to L.A. and to LACMA, this will impact the local economy—everything from restaurants to hotels to gas stations and more.

CONTACT

For more information on *Levitated Mass*, visit lacma.org/levitatedmass, email levitatedmass@lacma.org, or call the *Levitated Mass* Hotline at 323 857-6262.