

**Exhibition:** *Beyond Bling: Jewelry from the Lois Boardman Collection*  
**On View:** October 2, 2016–February 5, 2017  
**Location:** Ahmanson Building, Level 2



Image captions on page 3

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) presents *Beyond Bling: Jewelry from the Lois Boardman Collection*, showcasing for the first time selected works from the Lois Boardman collection of international contemporary studio jewelry, recently donated to LACMA. The collection comprises over 300 pieces that represent the full spectrum of unconventional jewelry-making in the late 20th and early 21st centuries and has immediately vaulted LACMA's contemporary jewelry holdings to the top ranks in the country.

The jewelers in the collection have followed the lead of earlier makers who defied conventions by creating innovative designs and using non-precious materials to make works prized for their artistic rather than monetary value. They continue to push the boundaries of their field, making jewelry that is distinguished by its personal and political messages, its unlikely media, and its humor and wit.

*Beyond Bling* is co-curated by Rosie Chambers Mills, The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation Associate Curator, and Bobbye Tigerman, Marilyn B. and Calvin B. Gross Associate Curator, in the Decorative Arts and Design department at LACMA. The exhibition features over 50 pieces of jewelry from the Boardman gift, plus several surprising comparisons from across LACMA's permanent collection, including an array of ancient Egyptian scarabs. The jewelry is made from a wide range of precious and non-precious materials including gold, silver, copper, brass, enamel, feathers, glass, textiles, Neoprene, Plexiglas, PVC, and other plastics.

### **Exhibition Organization**

The structure of the exhibition is inspired by cabinets of curiosities—a historic mode of display that highlights the diversity and popular appeal of the Boardman collection. The

single-gallery exhibition is arranged according to the early scientific categories “animal,” “vegetable,” and “mineral,” with the addition of “plastic” to account for the artificial materials used by many studio jewelers. Related objects from the museum’s permanent collection demonstrate how contemporary jewelry can stimulate new insights when viewed alongside LACMA’s encyclopedic holdings.

## **Exhibition Catalogue**

*Beyond Bling*

\$45 | hardcover

The exhibition is accompanied by a collection catalogue edited by Rosie Chambers Mills and Bobbye Tigerman and co-published by LACMA and DelMonico Books. It features over 200 illustrations and five essays by the exhibition’s co-curators, in addition to Helen W. Drutt English, Blake Gopnik, and Benjamin Lignel.

## **Programming**

Symposium: Beyond Bling: Jewelry Matters

Saturday, October 1, 2016 | 10 am–3:30 pm

Free, tickets required. Tickets will be available starting September 1, 2016.

Join art and design professionals from across the field for a full day dedicated to contemporary jewelry. The symposium celebrates the opening of *Beyond Bling* and features a panel discussion and several speakers exploring contemporary jewelry through design, film, and ethnography. Preeminent Dutch jeweler and industrial designer Gijs Bakker will deliver the keynote address. The full symposium program is available at [www.lacma.org/event/beyond-bling](http://www.lacma.org/event/beyond-bling).

**Credit:** This exhibition was organized by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Support was provided in part by the Pasadena Art Alliance and the Society of North American Goldsmiths (SNAG).

The catalogue was made possible by the Rotasa Foundation, Typecraft, the John and Robyn Horn Foundation, and the Decorative Arts and Design Council of LACMA.

All exhibitions at LACMA are underwritten by the LACMA Exhibition Fund. Major annual support is provided by Kitzia and Richard Goodman, with generous annual funding from Louise and Brad Edgerton, Edgerton Foundation, Emily and Teddy Greenspan, Jenna and Jason Grosfeld, and Lenore and Richard Wayne.

The symposium is made possible in part by the Creative Industries Fund NL.

## **About LACMA**

Since its inception in 1965, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) has been devoted to collecting works of art that span both history and geography, in addition to representing Los Angeles’s uniquely diverse population. Today LACMA is the largest art museum in the western United States, with a collection that includes more than 130,000 objects dating from antiquity to the present, encompassing the geographic world and nearly the entire history of art. Among the museum’s strengths are its holdings of Asian art; Latin American art, ranging from masterpieces from the Ancient Americas to works by leading modern and contemporary artists; and Islamic art, of which LACMA hosts one of the most significant collections in the world. A museum of international stature as

well as a vital part of Southern California, LACMA shares its vast collections through exhibitions, public programs, and research facilities that attract over one million visitors annually, in addition to serving millions through digital initiatives such as online collections, scholarly catalogues, and interactive engagement. LACMA is located in Hancock Park, 30 acres situated at the center of Los Angeles, which also contains the La Brea Tar Pits and Museum and the forthcoming Academy Museum of Motion Pictures. Situated halfway between the ocean and downtown, LACMA is at the heart of Los Angeles.

Location: 5905 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA, 90036. [lacma.org](http://lacma.org)

**Image captions:**

(Left) Bernhard Schobinger, *Smoky Quartz on Countersink Nail* ring, 2010, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, gift of Lois and Bob Boardman, © Bernhard Schobinger/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York/ProLitteris, Zürich, photo © Museum Associates/LACMA

(Center, left) Mirjam Hiller, *Loperenias* brooch, 2012, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, gift of Lois and Bob Boardman, © Mirjam Hiller, photo © Museum Associates/LACMA

(Center, right) Gerd Rothmann, *Die Goldene Nase Nosepiece*, 1988, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, gift of Lois and Bob Boardman, © Gerd Rothmann, photo © Museum Associates/LACMA

(Right) Emiko Oye, *Maharajah's 6th* necklace, from the series *My First Royal Jewels*, 2008, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, gift of Lois and Bob Boardman, © Emiko Oye, photo © Museum Associates/LACMA

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