

**ARTIST RESIDENCY: VERA LUTTER AT LACMA**

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The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) is pleased to announce an artist project and residency with Vera Lutter taking place February 2017–March 2018, culminating in an exhibition in March 2020.

Lutter makes large-scale photographs using one of the oldest optical technologies still in use, that of the camera obscura. Long before the invention of photography, it was known that if light traveled through a tiny hole into a darkened room, an image of the external world (off which the light rays had reflected) would re-form upside down on a wall opposite the tiny opening. Lutter herself began to use a camera obscura in the mid-1990s after moving to New York City. Living at the time in an apartment in midtown Manhattan, she transformed one room into a room-sized camera obscura to document the city outside her window. Since then, Lutter has adopted the camera obscura as her singular working method. She builds enormous cameras out of plywood, or adapts rooms or portable structures (such as shipping containers) in order to photograph a range of sites and subjects.

For her residency at LACMA, Lutter undertook an ambitious project with three components. First, using a custom-built mobile camera, she documented exterior views of the buildings on LACMA's campus slated for demolition to make room for a new building for the museum's permanent collection. Second, working with LACMA

curators, Lutter photographed the interiors of selected galleries to create images that follow in the grand tradition of 19th-century “gallery paintings” of museum interiors. Third, using her camera obscura method, she photographed paintings in LACMA’s permanent collection. Although Lutter has previously photographed classical and modern sculptures, this was her first time using her camera obscura to photograph two-dimensional works of art.

A selection of works from Lutter’s residency debuted in a special LACMA presentation at The European Fine Art Fair (TEFAF) New York Fall 2017 (October 27–November 1, 2017) at The Park Avenue Armory in New York.

### **About Vera Lutter**

Born in Germany, Lutter was educated at the Akademie der Bildenden Künste in Munich, Germany, and received an MFA from the School of Visual Arts in New York. In 2015–2016 her work was the subject of a mid-career retrospective, *Inverted Worlds*, organized by The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (traveled to New Orleans Museum of Art). Other solo exhibitions of her work have been mounted by Carré d’Art - Musée d’art contemporain, Nîmes, France; Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth; Kunsthaus Graz, Austria; Kunsthalle Basel, Switzerland; and Dia: Beacon in Beacon, New York. Her work is included in the collections of numerous museums including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Dia Art Foundation, New York; The National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; The Art Institute of Chicago; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; the J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles; and the Centre Pompidou, Paris.

**Credit:** Vera Lutter’s residency at LACMA is supported by Sotheby’s.

### **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, mirroring Los Angeles’s rich cultural heritage and uniquely diverse population. Today LACMA is the largest art museum in the western United States, with a collection of over 135,000 objects that illuminate 6,000 years of art history from new and unexpected points of view. A museum of international stature as well as a vital cultural center for Southern California, LACMA shares its vast collection with the Greater Los Angeles County and beyond through exhibitions, public programs, and research facilities that attract over 1.5 million visitors annually, in addition to serving millions more through community partnerships, school outreach programs, and creative digital initiatives. LACMA’s main campus is located halfway between the ocean and downtown, adjacent to the La Brea Tar Pits and Museum and the future home of the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures. Dedicated to serving all of Los Angeles, LACMA collaborates with a range of curators, educators, and artists on exhibitions and programs at various sites throughout the County.

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

**Image caption:** Vera Lutter, *Rodin Garden, I: February 22, 2017*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, promised gift of Sharyn and Bruce Charnas, © Vera Lutter

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