

Exhibition: *Life Model: Charles White and His Students*

Date: February 16–September 15, 2019

Location: Charles White Elementary School Gallery |
2401 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles,
California 90057



Image captions on page 2

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) presents *Life Model: Charles White and His Students*. Painter and draftsman Charles White (1918–1979) is known for his powerful depictions of African American life and the human condition. White was also a dedicated teacher, and *Life Model* illuminates his impact on his students, including David Hammons, Judithe Hernández, Ulysses Jenkins, Kerry James Marshall, and Kent Twitchell. Beyond fostering technical skills, White urged his pupils to be “thinking artists” and to hone distinct points of view. Featured in the exhibition are objects demonstrating these perspectives, including artwork made by White’s students alongside sketchbooks, photographs, and archival footage that illustrate White’s pedagogy. On view February 16–September 15, 2019, the exhibition is presented at LACMA’s satellite gallery at Charles White Elementary School, the former Otis Art Institute campus, where White was the first African American faculty member. The exhibition is curated by C. Ian White and Sarah Jesse.

For black artists in Los Angeles like Ulysses Jenkins, Kerry James Marshall, and Richard Wyatt, White was a role model carving out a place in the racist art establishment. Others were influenced by his artistic practice: Kent Twitchell’s

portraiture, Eloy Torrez's sketches, and Corky McCoy's album covers echo White's celebratory depictions of blackness, while the sociopolitical commentary in David Hammons's and Judithe Hernández's work reflects White's commitment to making socially engaged art. Collectively, the assembled objects shed light on White's legacy.

This show at Charles White Elementary School—named in honor of the artist in 2004—is a companion exhibition to *Charles White: A Retrospective*, on view at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (5905 Wilshire Boulevard) from February 17 to June 9, 2019. Visit lacma.org to view the Charles White Elementary School Gallery's public hours.

Credit

This exhibition was organized by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

Sponsored by:



Programming for *Life Model: Charles White and His Students* is supported by United Airlines and by the Terra Foundation for American Art as part of Art Design Chicago, an initiative exploring Chicago's art and design legacy.



All education and outreach programs at LACMA are underwritten by the LACMA Education Fund and are supported in part by the William Randolph Hearst Endowment Fund for Arts Education, the Suzanne Gemmell Trust, Katharyn Alvord Gerlich, the Margaret A. Cargill Arts Education Endowment, The Rhonda S. Zinner Foundation, and Gloria Ricci Lothrop.

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 139,000 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 1.2 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

Image caption:

(left): Kent Twitchell, *Portrait of Charles White*, 1977, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, gift of Benjamin Horowitz (M.91.86)

(left-center): David Hammons, *Untitled*, 1968, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, gift of George and Judith Sunga (AC1997.25.1). © David Hammons, photo © Museum Associates/LACMA

(right-center): Kerry James Marshall, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Shadow of His Former Self*, 1980, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, promised Gift of Steven Lebowitz and Deborah Lebowitz, © Kerry James Marshall, photo courtesy of the artist and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York

(right): Richard Wyatt, *Man Wearing Sunglasses*, 1981, Mott Warsh Collection, © Richard Wyatt Jr., photo courtesy of the Mott-Warsh Collection, Muskegon Museum of Art.

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