

**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



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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](http://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:



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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

Located on the Pacific Rim, LACMA is the largest art museum in the western United States, with a collection of nearly 140,000 objects that illuminate 6,000 years of artistic expression across the globe. Committed to showcasing a multitude of art histories, LACMA exhibits and interprets works of art from new and unexpected points of view that are informed by the region's rich cultural heritage and diverse population. LACMA's spirit of experimentation is reflected in its work with artists, technologists, and thought leaders as well as in its regional, national, and global partnerships to share collections and programs, create pioneering initiatives, and engage new audiences.

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

**Image caption:**

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

(left-center): David Hammons, *Untitled*, 1968, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, gift of George and Judith Sunga, © 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, collection of Steven 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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