



MEDIA ALERT

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) and the Whitney Museum of American Art Announce Mid-Career Survey of Julie Mehretu

Co-Organized Exhibition Tours Four Major U.S. Museums

What: Co-organized by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art, *Julie Mehretu* is a mid-career survey that will unite approximately 30 paintings with 32 works on paper dating from 1996 to the present by Julie Mehretu (b. 1970, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia). The first-ever comprehensive retrospective of Mehretu's career, the exhibition covers over two decades of her examination of history, colonialism, capitalism, geopolitics, war, global uprising, diaspora, and displacement through the artistic strategies of abstraction, architecture, landscape, movement, and, most recently, figuration. Mehretu's play with scale, as evident in her intimate drawings and large canvases and complex techniques in printmaking, will be explored in depth.

Julie Mehretu is curated by Christine Y. Kim, associate curator in contemporary art at LACMA with Rujeko Hockley, assistant curator at the Whitney.

Where: **Los Angeles County Museum of Art | Los Angeles, CA**
November 3, 2019–March 22, 2020 (BCAM, Level 1)
November 3, 2019–May 17, 2020 (BCAM, Level 3)

Whitney Museum of American Art | New York, NY
June 26–September 20, 2020

High Museum of Art | Atlanta, GA
October 24, 2020–January 31, 2021

Walker Art Center | Minneapolis, MN
March 13–July 11, 2021

About Julie Mehretu

Born in Ethiopia in 1970, Julie Mehretu was raised in East Lansing, Michigan. Since 1999, she has lived and worked in New York, establishing herself as one of the most exciting painters working in the United States. Known for her large-scale abstract canvases, Mehretu's painting techniques range from precisely drawn lines and layering of different elements and media to brushed, scratched, and rubbed marks and balletic gestures of varying weight and viscosity. While her earlier work featured architectural and graphic elements, geographical schema, and plans for public spaces, her more recent work tends toward bold, gestural canvases with figurative elements layered into pixelated, printed, sprayed, and drawn marks and images. These abstractions reflect that which is both deeply embedded and constantly

fluctuating in human consciousness. A recipient of the U.S. State Department’s National Medal of Arts (2015) and a MacArthur Fellowship “Genius Grant” (2005) among other awards and honors, Mehretu’s art continues to awe viewers by delineating and expressing the complexities of our civilization in all of its chaos and beauty.

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CREDITS AND NOTES TO EDITORS:

Los Angeles County Museum of Art (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 1.5 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

Credit: This exhibition was organized by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and Whitney Museum of Art.

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Whitney Museum of American Art

The Whitney Museum of American Art, founded in 1930 by the artist and philanthropist Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney (1875–1942), houses the foremost collection of American art from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Mrs. Whitney, an early and ardent supporter of modern American art, nurtured groundbreaking artists at a time when audiences were still largely preoccupied with the Old Masters. From her vision arose the Whitney Museum of American Art, which has been championing the most innovative art of the United States for more than eighty years. The core of the Whitney’s mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit American art of our time and serve a wide variety of audiences in celebration of the complexity and diversity of art and culture in the United States. Through this mission and a steadfast commitment to artists themselves, the Whitney has long been a powerful force in support of modern and contemporary art and continues to help define what is innovative and influential in American art today.

Location: 99 Gansevoort Street, New York City, NY. whitney.org

Credit: This exhibition was organized by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art.