

Exhibition: *Luchita Hurtado: I Live I Die I Will Be Reborn*

Dates: February 16–May 3, 2020

Location: BCAM, Level 3, Nathanson Gallery



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The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) presents *Luchita Hurtado: I Live I Die I Will Be Reborn*, the first exhibition in the United States to showcase the remarkable eight-decade career of ninety-nine-year-old artist Luchita Hurtado (Venezuela, b. 1920). Prior to 2016, the breadth of Hurtado's artistic practice was largely unknown, as her works were kept in storage and out of public view for most of her life. The exhibition traces Hurtado's forays into abstraction, experiments with language, engagements with nature and ecology, and, most significantly, her persistent recourse to self-portraiture and the human figure.

LACMA's presentation of *Luchita Hurtado: I Live I Die I Will Be Reborn* is curated by Jennifer King, Associate Curator of Contemporary Projects. The exhibition originated at the Serpentine Galleries (London), where it was curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist, Artistic Director, and Rebecca Lewin, Curator, Exhibitions and Design. Of note in the exhibition is Luchita Hurtado's *Untitled* (c. 1951), a work in LACMA's collection recently acquired during the 2019 Collectors Committee Weekend, a gift of LACMA trustee Janet Dreisen Rappaport.

"Luchita Hurtado: I Live I Die I Will Be Reborn is a long-overdue survey that demonstrates the incredible scope of Hurtado's work, and I am thrilled we are able to present the exhibition in Los Angeles, her adopted hometown since the early 1950s, said Jennifer King, exhibition curator. "Her fiercely original practice developed almost entirely independent of mainstream styles and movements, and

this exhibition will demonstrate her keen eye for the possibilities of line, color, pattern, and form. I'm especially pleased that LACMA's presentation will include a partial reconstitution of Hurtado's only one-person exhibition in Los Angeles prior to 2016, her 1974 exhibition of large-scale paintings at the Woman's Building in Los Angeles."

Hurtado's work is characterized by an original view of the world that is both grounded and transcendental, and her subject matter makes use of unexpected perspectives—looking straight down or across her own body, or straight up to a glimpse of sky—using cosmic motifs and geometric abstractions. To the artist, the human body is part of the world, not separate from nature. For Hurtado, the interconnectivity between human beings and the cosmos was heightened by seeing the first photographs of Earth from space in 1946, and her work since has continued to propose all life forms as part of a single, living entity.

About Luchita Hurtado

Born in Maiquetía, Venezuela, in 1920, Luchita Hurtado moved to New York in 1928. During her time in New York, Hurtado freelanced as a fashion illustrator for Condé Nast in New York, before relocating to Mexico City, where she joined a group of renowned artists and writers who had emigrated from Europe in the wake of the Spanish Civil War and the Second World War and who were working under the banners of Surrealism and Magical Realism. By the late 1940s, Hurtado had moved to Mill Valley, California, where she was closely associated with the Dynaton Group. In 1951 she moved to Los Angeles, where she resides to this day.

Hurtado's work has been featured in the following solo exhibitions: Grandview One Gallery, The Woman's Building, Los Angeles (1974), *Selected Works, 1942-1952*, Park View, Los Angeles (2016), *Figures and Icons, Annenberg Community Beach House*, Santa Monica, California (2017), and *Luchita Hurtado: Dark Years*, Hauser & Wirth, New York (2019). Recent group exhibitions include *Summer Nocturne: Works on Paper from the 1970s*, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara (2018); *Painting: Now and Forever, Part III*, Matthew Marks Gallery, New York (2018); and *Made in L.A. 2018*, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles. In 2019,

Hurtado was named to the Time 100 list of most influential people, and was honored with a lifetime achievement award by Americans for the Arts.

Credit: This exhibition was organized by the Serpentine Galleries (London), in association with the Los Angeles County Museum of Art

The exhibition is accompanied by the first monograph on Luchita Hurtado, edited by the Serpentine Galleries curators, Rebecca Lewin and Hans Ulrich Obrist, in collaboration with Ryan Good.

Generous support is provided by Elizabeth, Matthew and Theodore Karatz and their families in honor of their mother, Janet Dreisen Rappaport. In-kind support is provided by Hauser & Wirth.

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About LACMA

Located on the Pacific Rim, LACMA is the largest art museum in the western United States, with a collection of nearly 142,000 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

Image caption: (left): Luchita Hurtado, *Untitled*, c. 1951, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, gift of Janet Dreisen Rappaport through the 2019 Collectors Committee, © Luchita Hurtado, photo: Genevieve Hanson; (left center): Luchita Hurtado, *Untitled*, 1970, oil on canvas, courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth, © Luchita Hurtado, photo: Jeff McLane; (right center): Luchita Hurtado, *Mascara*, 1975, courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth, © Luchita Hurtado, photo: Jeff McLane; (right): Luchita Hurtado, *Untitled*, 2019, courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth, © Luchita Hurtado, photo: Jeff McLane

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