

## **LACMA MEDIA ALERT**

### **The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) and the Natural History Museums of Los Angeles County (NHMLAC) to temporarily close to the public effective tomorrow, Saturday, March 14**

Following recommendations from Los Angeles County officials, LACMA and the Natural History Museum, La Brea Tar Pits Museum and the William S. Hart Museum have decided to close their main campuses to the public beginning tomorrow, Saturday, March 14, until further notice. The decision to close the two neighboring campuses is in support of public health officials in their efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19.

The decision to close LACMA's campus to the public impacts the following:

- LACMA's main Wilshire campus as well as the museum's gallery at Charles White Elementary School in MacArthur Park
- All public programs and events; there are plans in place to reschedule as many public programs as possible. New dates to be announced at a later time
- For any current ticket holders, LACMA will be offering refunds or credit for a future date upon reopening
- The museum will support its employees during this time
- LACMA is currently exploring ways for visitors to experience LACMA's collection and exhibitions digitally

To learn more about LACMA's response and for a list of affected programs, visit <https://www.lacma.org/know-before-you-go>. Future updates and responses will be available on LACMA's website and social media (@lacma).

#### **Statement from Michael Govan, LACMA CEO and Director**

"Though we had been hoping to keep our galleries open so that our visitors may look to art for inspiration and solace in these uncertain times, we believe that closure is the best way for us to support public health officials in their efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19. We are

committed, as always, to help protect the most vulnerable in our community. As this is an evolving situation, we do not yet know when we will reopen; however, we will provide updates about our plans to reopen on our website and through social media. LACMA staff are currently exploring ways for digital visitors to enjoy our wonderful exhibitions and collections, and we will be sure to let you know about these initiatives. We look forward to welcoming our visitors back to LACMA.”

### **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.

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