

**Installation:** *Modern Art Collection*  
**Dates:** June 13, 2021–ongoing  
**Location:** BCAM, Level 3



(Image caption on page 5)

(Los Angeles, CA—May 6, 2021) The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA)'s Modern Art collection returns in a new presentation of 250 works by nearly 200 artists that offers fresh perspectives on the museum's unparalleled holdings. LACMA's European and American Modern Art collection has particular strengths in German Expressionism, Abstract Expressionism, and the art of Southern California. It also includes the renowned collection of Janice and Henri Lazarof, with especially fine holdings of work by Pablo Picasso and Alberto Giacometti. Previously located in the Ahmanson Building, the collection will be installed in a new presentation suffused with natural light on Level 3 of the Broad Contemporary Art Museum (BCAM). Several works drawn from the museum's Decorative Arts and Design and Latin American holdings have been integrated to provide added perspectives on the art of this period. The galleries have been redesigned in collaboration with Frank O. Gehry and Associates, and the presentation includes new interpretive texts, six thematic audio tours, a 30-minute film drawn from LACMA's exhibition archives, and a collection soundtrack. The new presentation is curated by Stephanie Barron, Senior Curator and Department Head of Modern Art, and Katia Zavistovski, Assistant Curator of Modern Art.

"This installation is an opportunity to rethink how we display our collection and bring together longtime favorites with works that have never been on view, and we have a rare chance to incorporate works from other departments while we are in the construction phase for the David Geffen Galleries," Barron said. "I hope that the

stories and connections between and among objects will offer new ways of thinking, informed by recent scholarship and discourse, about our modern art collection. LACMA's 20th-century art collection has grown along with the museum itself, thanks to the generosity of donors like David E. Bright, Michael and Dorothy Blankfort, Robert H. Halff, and Janice and Henri Lazarof, whose collections have exponentially expanded our modern art holdings, along with other gifts and purchases of many remarkable works of art. We are excited to introduce this reinterpretation of the collection during this time of cultural growth at LACMA and in the city of Los Angeles."

"Many of our most beloved modern art masterpieces are now in a fresh and beautiful context in BCAM—framed in Renzo Piano's light-filled galleries, adjusted for this particular installation by Frank Gehry," said Michael Govan, LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director. "But most importantly, Senior Curator of Modern Art Stephanie Barron has used her unique and intimate knowledge of our collections, along with new research and new acquisitions, to create an engaging new presentation with surprising ideas connecting mostly familiar works of art."

### **Organization**

The new presentation is organized in loose chronological order, beginning on the east side with German Expressionist paintings and sculptures. An adjacent gallery dedicated to works on paper from the Rifkind Center for German Expressionist Studies will open with a focus on women artists. Other galleries include paintings, sculptures, and works on paper from the Janice and Henri Lazarof Collection, with groupings devoted to work made in France between the late 19th century and the Second World War, a gallery featuring 21 paintings and sculptures by Pablo Picasso that span nearly seven decades, a presentation of nine sculptures and one painting by Alberto Giacometti, and Paul Klee's and Wassily Kandinsky's Bauhaus works. Another gallery brings together paintings and sculptures by avant-garde artists from Russia, Eastern and Western Europe, and North and South America drawn to Paris as the vibrant nexus of transformative artistic innovations in the 1910s and '20s.

The west galleries begin with a focus on international artists working in Europe, Latin America, and the United States associated with Surrealism in the 1930s and '40s, and who provided an important foundation for American Abstract Expressionism. The two largest spaces in the Jane and Marc Nathanson Galleries are devoted to Abstract Expressionism—with works by Ruth Asawa, Helen Frankenthaler, Franz Kline, Lee Krasner, Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko, and Clyfford Still, among others—and art from the 1960s, which is anchored by Roberto Matta's towering canvas *Burn, Baby, Burn (L'escalade)* (1965–66) and contains significant examples of Pop art and Southern California assemblage. The installation will also feature David Hockney's iconic *Mulholland Drive: The Road to the Studio* (1980) and Michael McMillen's immersive installation *Central Meridian (The Garage)* (1981), which has not been on view in 20 years.

### **Engaging with the Collection**

Each gallery includes new interpretive wall texts written to reflect recent scholarship and engage issues such as provenance, colonialism, artistic biographies, and sociopolitical topics.

The presentation is also accompanied by interactive content that allows for deeper engagement with the collection.

**Six thematic audio tours**, newly created by Amy Heibel, offer different perspectives about the work on view, including German Expressionism, Picasso portraits, stories of migration and displacement, political activism in 20th-century art, postwar women artists, and artists speaking about art. These tours can be activated via a QR code on the gallery walls and listened to on mobile devices.

A special audio tour created by the museum's Education Department for young children and families will be available as well.

A **collection soundtrack**, created by dublab's Mark "Frosty" McNeill in collaboration with LACMA's Senior Curator and Department Head of Modern Art Stephanie Barron, spans multiple genres, eras, regions, and tones. By pairing individual artworks with specific tracks, the interconnection between audio and visual mediums is illuminated. The soundtrack aims to enhance the in-gallery experience, providing a sonic framework that may also be enjoyed far beyond the physical museum. The soundtrack will be available on Mixcloud, Spotify, and Apple Music.

*Five Decades of Modern and Contemporary Art at LACMA* is a **30-minute film** produced by the Modern art department and drawn from LACMA's archives that highlights selected exhibitions organized by the museum between 1965 and 2020.

### **Public Programs**

#### **Art Moves: Modern Art and Culture Shock LA**

Tuesday, June 15 | 6 pm

Presented on LACMA's YouTube channel

In celebration of the opening of LACMA's modern art galleries, Culture Shock LA will premiere new choreography in response to works on view. Experience the interplay between art and dance.

#### **A Weekend with Pablo Picasso**

July 7–8 | 5 pm–5 pm

RSVP to receive a link and password for this event. The presentation will be available for a 24-hour period.

LA Theater Works presents the audio production of the critically acclaimed play *A Weekend with Pablo Picasso*, written and performed by Herbert Sigüenza. This one-time link will include a conversation with Sigüenza, LA Theater Works Producing Director Susan Loewenberg, and LACMA's Senior Curator and Department Head of Modern Art Stephanie Barron.

### **Käthe Kollwitz in Los Angeles: Nazi Spies and Jewish Defiance**

September 23 | 5pm

Presented on Zoom

Scholars Françoise Forster Hahn and Steven J. Ross will discuss the mounting political tensions in Los Angeles during the 1937 exhibition of Käthe Kollwitz' prints at Jake Zeitlin's rare book shop, which defied threats posed by Nazi agents against Jewish intellectuals. Kollwitz's work will be on view in the *Women's Work* installation in the Modern Art Galleries. This event is sponsored by the Robert Gore Rifkind Foundation

Future public programs will include a sonic walkthrough of the installation with Mark "Frosty" McNeill, and new performances by Zoe Aja Moore, Pamela Z, and Monday Evening Concerts. Due to evolving Covid-19 protocols, details on these events will be forthcoming. More information about collection-related programming will be available on [lacma.org](http://lacma.org).

#### **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](http://lacma.org)

**Image Caption:** Installation view of the new Modern Art presentation on BCAM level 3, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, June 13, 2021-ongoing, photo © Fredrik Nilsen

**Press Contact:** Jessica Youn, Interim Director, Communications | [jyoun@lacma.org](mailto:jyoun@lacma.org)

#### **Connect with LACMA**



@lacma