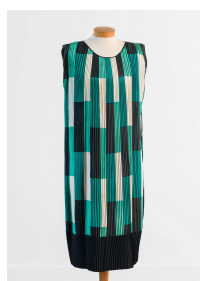


Exhibition: *Woven Histories: Textiles and Modern Abstraction*

Dates: September 17, 2023–January 21, 2024

Location: BCAM, Level 2



(Image captions on page 3)

(Los Angeles, CA—August 8, 2023) The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) presents *Woven Histories: Textiles and Modern Abstraction*, an exhibition exploring the intersection of abstract art and woven textiles over the past century. The nexus of textiles and abstraction embodies key political, social, economic, and aesthetic issues that have shaped the history of the modern era. Beginning in the first decades of the 20th century, the exhibition presents a diverse range of genres, materials, processes, and technologies, which artists have utilized when probing these issues: painting; basketry; photography and film; woven, knitted and felted cloth; costume; attire; and tapestry. Further, it foregrounds the increasingly important role of textile heritages today as affordances in constructing identity, kinship, and community.

Featuring over 150 works, the exhibition assembles a roster of transnational and intergenerational artists. Works by pioneering women artists from the historic avant-gardes are put into dialogue with those of contemporary creators: Anni Albers, Jeffrey Gibson, Hannah Hoch, Yvonne Koolmatrie, Ulrike Mueller, Liubov Popova, Sophie Taeuber-Arp, Rosemarie Trockel, Andrea Zittel, and others.

Woven Histories is organized by the National Gallery of Art, Washington, in collaboration with LACMA, the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, and The Museum of Modern Art, New York. The exhibition is curated by Lynne Cooke, Senior Curator of Special Projects in Modern Art, National Gallery of Art. The LACMA presentation is overseen by Rita Gonzalez, the Terri and Michael Smooke Curator and Department Head, Contemporary Art, LACMA.

“The centrality of textiles in our everyday lives is often ignored or taken for

granted, whether in the guise of dress, interior furnishings, and decor, or in the form of metaphors, idioms, and sayings that permeate our speech and govern thought,” said Lynne Cooke. “While often unmarked, these material and immaterial textile choices signal how we want to represent ourselves, and the values we embrace. In sum, much that is telegraphed consciously and unconsciously through the significations of cloth and clothing underpins the myriad forms of art-making showcased in this exhibition.”

Rita Gonzalez adds, “*Woven Histories* offers a multivocal narrative that represents the diversity routinely discounted in orthodox chronicles. This is the first exhibition of its kind to present this broad range of art historical perspectives in a holistic way.”

“Over the years, LACMA has presented exhibitions that examine the intersections of our encyclopedic collections,” said Michael Govan, LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director. “While weaving is often associated with the museum’s Decorative Arts and Design and Costume and Textiles departments, there are strong connections between artists working with this medium and the Modern and Contemporary collection. This exhibition is a wonderful opportunity to present this interconnected art history with a refreshed lens.”

Following the presentation at LACMA, the exhibition travels to the National Gallery of Art, Washington; the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; and The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA). *Woven Histories* is also accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue, co-published by the National Gallery of Art and the University of Chicago Press.

Exhibition Organization

Woven Histories is organized in seven sections: key moments of interchange, impact and confluence, between textile and abstraction, that unfold in a loose chronology. These sections include: Materialist Abstraction, Design, and Utopian Social Visions; Line Involvements; Pictorial Interlacings: The Grid, the Net, the Web; Basketry as a Textile Art; Labor and its Technologies; Self-Fashioning and Life Wear; and Community and the Politics of Identity.

Credit

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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 149,000 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 900036. lacma.org

Image captions: Sonia Delaunay, *Dress*, c. 1926, private collection, Germany, photo courtesy Archiv Baumeister Ed Rossbach, *Lettuce Basket*, 1982, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, gift of Dr. Milton and Martha Dalitzky, © Ed Rossbach, photo © Museum Associates/LACMA; Jeffrey Gibson, *The Anthropophagic Effect, Garment No. 4, 2019*, National Gallery of Art, Washington, Lehrman Fund and Millennium Fund, 2023.7.1., © Jeffrey Gibson, courtesy of Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York; Kavi Gupta Gallery, Chicago; Roberts Projects, Los Angeles; Stephen Friedman Gallery, London; Igshaan Adams, *Vroeglig by die Voordeur*, 2020, Beth Rudin DeWoody, © Igshaan Adams, courtesy the artist and Casey Kaplan, New York, photo: Mario Todeschini

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