

THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, April 8 2019

**MOCA CELEBRATES THE MUSEUM'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY AND PERMANENT COLLECTION
AT THE GEFFEN CONTEMPORARY AT MOCA THIS SPRING WITH**

THE FOUNDATION OF THE MUSEUM: MOCA'S COLLECTION

**May 19, 2019–January 13, 2020
The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA**



LOS ANGELES—Forty years since its founding in 1979, The Museum of Contemporary Art has built one of the world's preeminent collections of contemporary art. A continually growing archive that reflects historical depth, recent experimentation, global awareness, and an outlook significantly informed by its home in Los Angeles, MOCA's collection numbers over seven thousand objects dating from the 1930s to the present. To mark the museum's 40th anniversary, this exhibition presents a selection of artworks that speak to the variety and prescience of MOCA's collecting over the past four decades. With a special emphasis on works associated with the museum's remarkable history of exhibitions, *The Foundation of the Museum: MOCA's Collection* spotlights the collection as an ever-changing landscape of contemporary art and curatorial taste, as well as the social and cultural backdrops that inform them. Featuring works by artists long- and newly-associated with the museum—many on view for the first time in years or never before shown—the exhibition foregrounds a belief that MOCA's histories and futures have always been multiple, ambitious, precious, and unique: the foundation of the museum.



The exhibition will be organized around the juxtaposition of stand-alone immersive installations—by Chris Burden, whose work *Exposing the Foundation of the Museum* (1986/2018) provides the show's title, Nancy Rubins, Liz Larner, Bruce Nauman, Rodney McMillian, Anicka Yi, Jessica Stockholder, Maria Nordman, and Fischli and Weiss, among others—and thematic groupings that invite the viewer to make surprising connections between artists, artworks, and artistic contexts and styles. One gallery highlights the importance of artist's gifts of other artists' works to the museum—and by extension underscores ideas of influence and affinity—bringing together works by Laura Owens, Judy Fiskin, and John Baldessari and works these artists have donated by Albert Oehlen, Sadie Benning, and On Kawara. Other galleries look at the intersection of illustration and politics in works by Kara Walker, Robert Colescott, Raymond Pettibon, and Frédéric Bruly Bouabré, or tease out notions of Americanness as it is explored in sculptures by Cady Noland, Glenn Ligon, and Robert Gober. Many of the galleries reflect the recent emphasis on figuration and identity in painting and drawing, and multiple works express conditions of bodies as they intersect with architecture and landscape. Taken as a whole, the exhibition draws inspiration from the cavernous, enveloping Geffen building itself, resisting the notion that MOCA's collection and history might be summarized in a single through-line or digestible narrative in favor of a more experiential dive into the artworks on display.

The Foundation of the Museum: MOCA's Collection is organized by Bennett Simpson, Senior Curator, with Rebecca Lowery, Curatorial Assistant, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles.

Lead underwriting for MOCA's 40th anniversary exhibitions and programs is provided by Sean and Alexandra Parker.

Lead support is provided by The Margaret and Daniel Loeb Foundation, Chara Schreyer and Gordon Freund, and **GUESS**

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Generous support is provided by Margaret Morgan and Wesley Phoa, Charlie Pohlrad, Pamela West and Collin Bernsen,  **DELTA**, and  **Bank of America**.

Exhibitions at MOCA are supported by the MOCA Fund for Exhibitions with generous funding provided by Dr. Alexander and Judith Angerman, Earl and Shirley Greif Foundation, Sydney Holland, founder of the Sydney D. Holland Foundation, Nathalie Marciano and Julie Miyoshi, Steven and Jerri Nagelberg, and Jonathan M. Segal through the Rhonda S. Zinner Foundation.

Image credit: Chris Burden, *Exposing the Foundation of the Museum*, 1986. Site-specific excavation as part of *Individuals: A Selected History of Contemporary Art, 1945-86*, December 10, 1986–January 10, 1988, at The Temporary Contemporary. Artwork courtesy of the Chris Burden Estate. Copyright 2019 Chris Burden / licensed by The Chris Burden Estate and Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York. Photo by Squidds and Nunns.

RELATED PROGRAMS

Exhibition Walkthrough: Bennett Simpson and Rebecca Lowery on

The Foundation of the Museum: MOCA's Collection

THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2019, 7PM

THE GEFFEN CONTEMPORARY AT MOCA

INFO 213/621-1732 or visitorservices@moca.org

FREE

Members' Opening: *The Foundation of the Museum: MOCA's Collection*

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2019, 7–9PM

THE GEFFEN CONTEMPORARY AT MOCA

MOCA PRESENTS *THE FOUNDATION OF THE MUSEUM: MOCA'S COLLECTION*

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INFO 213/621-1794 or membership@moca.org
FREE for MOCA members; no reservations necessary
Please check moca.org for updates on related programs.

THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

About MOCA: Founded in 1979, MOCA is the defining museum of contemporary art. In a relatively short period of time, MOCA has achieved astonishing growth; a world-class permanent collection of more than 7,000 objects, international in scope and among the finest in the world; hallmark education programs that are widely emulated; award-winning publications that present original scholarship; groundbreaking monographic, touring, and thematic exhibitions of international repute that survey the art of our time; and cutting-edge engagement with modes of new media production. MOCA is a not-for-profit institution that relies on a variety of funding sources for its activities.

Hours: MOCA Grand Avenue (located at 250 South Grand Avenue in Downtown Los Angeles) is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11am to 6pm; Thursday from 11am to 8pm; Saturday and Sunday from 11am to 5pm; and closed on Tuesday. The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA (located at 152 North Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012) has the same hours as MOCA Grand Avenue during exhibitions. Please call ahead or go to moca.org for the exhibition schedule for The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA. The MOCA Store at MOCA Grand Avenue (located at 250 South Grand Avenue) is open Monday through Wednesday and Friday from 10:30am to 5:30pm; Thursday from 10:30am to 8:30pm; and Saturday and Sunday from 10:30am to 6:30pm.

Museum Admission: General admission is free for all MOCA members. General admission is also free for all people on Thursdays from 5pm to 8pm. General admission at MOCA Grand Avenue and The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA is \$15 for adults; \$8 for students with I.D.; \$10 for seniors (65+); and free for children under 12 and jurors with I.D.

More Information: For 24-hour information on current exhibitions, education programs, and special events, call 213/626-6222 or access MOCA online at moca.org.

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