

LACMA

Created for the Museum Series, sponsored by Visions and Voices, October 30, 2009.

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Location

LACMA is located on Wilshire Boulevard, between Fairfax and Curson.

The museum's URL is www.lacma.org.

Description

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) is the largest art museum in the western United States, and contains over 100,000 objects dating from ancient times to the present. The museum's collections encompass the geographic world and virtually the entire history of art. Among the museum's special strengths are its holdings of Asian art, housed in part in the Bruce Goff-designed Pavilion for Japanese Art; Latin American art, ranging from pre-Columbian masterpieces to works by leading modern and contemporary artists including Diego Rivera, Frida Kahlo, and José Clemente Orozco; and Islamic art, of which LACMA hosts one of the most significant collections in the world.

Today, LACMA occupies a seven-building complex located on twenty acres in the heart of Los Angeles, at Wilshire and Fairfax. The campus is undergoing a ten-year expansion and renovation known as the *Transformation* by the Renzo Piano Building Workshop. The first phase of the project opened in early 2008, introducing an open-air pavilion called the BP Grand Entrance as well as the Broad Contemporary Art Museum at LACMA, featuring 60,000 square feet of exhibition space on three floors. BCAM's inaugural installation includes expansive spaces devoted to the art of Richard Serra, Barbara Kruger, John Baldessari, Ed Ruscha, Cindy Sherman, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Damien Hirst, Chris Burden, Robert Rauschenberg, Jasper Johns, and many more.

A Bit of History

The museum was established in 1910 as part of the Los Angeles Museum of History, Science, and Art. The cornerstone was laid in Exposition Park near the University of Southern California. The museum opened without an art collection nor the means to acquire one. Instead, art was loaned to the museum for its inauguration.

In the 1940s-1950s the museum collection grew dramatically, increasing its holdings of European, American, and Egyptian art, large through gifts of William Randolph Hearst.

In 1965, the museum opened at its current location on Wilshire Boulevard. It is the largest new museum to be built in the United States after the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC. The permanent collection was housed in the Ahmanson Building, special exhibitions were presented in the Hammer Building, and the Bing Theater provided seating for audiences of 600 people.

The Japanese Pavilion was designed by Bruce Goff opened in 1988. The museum continued expanding, purchasing the May Co building in 1994. In 2004 LACMA's Board of Directors unanimously approved plans to dramatically transform the museum campus with the addition of exhibition galleries, public spaces, gardens, and a new building devoted to contemporary art, and selected architect Renzo Piano to oversee the expansion. The first part of the expansion project, BCAM, opened in 2008.

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Recent General Guides to the Museum

These are general book guides to the museum campus:

Michael Govan, Lynn Zelevansky, Michele Urgan, *The Broad Contemporary Art Museum at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art*. Los Angeles: Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 2008. Located in the Architecture and Fine Arts Library, call number N582.L7A688 2008.

Los Angeles County Museum of Art. London: Thames & Hudson, 2003. Located in the Architecture and Fine Arts Library, call number N582.L7A644 2003.

Guides to collections

This is a selection of guides to specific collections of objects displayed in the museum.

The Ahmanson gifts: European masterpieces in the collection of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Los Angeles: The Museum, 1991. Located in the Architecture and Fine Arts Library, call number ND454.L6 1991.

American art: a catalogue of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art collection. Los Angeles: The Museum, 1991. N6505.L6 1991.

Martha Drexler Lynn, *Clay today: contemporary ceramists and their work: a catalogue of the Howard and Gwen Laurie Smits Collection at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art*. Los Angeles: The Museum, 1990. Located in the Architecture and Fine Arts Library, call number NK4008.L67.

Linda Komaroff, *Islamic art at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art*. Los Angeles, CA: Museum Associates, 2005. Located in the Architecture and Fine Arts Library, call number N582.L7A644 2005.

Los Angeles County Museum of Art, *Masterpieces from the Shin'enkan Collection: Japanese painting of the Edo Period*. Los Angeles: The Museum, 1986. Located in the Architecture and Fine Arts Library, call number ND1053.5.L67 1986.

Michael Kan, Clement Meighan, H.B. Nicholson, *Sculpture of ancient west Mexico: Nayarit, Jalisco, Colima: a catalogue of the Proctor Stafford Collection at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art*. Los Angeles: Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 1989. Located in the Architecture and Fine Arts Library, call number F1219.3.A7L6 1989.

Edward Maeder, *An elegant art: fashion & fantasy in the eighteenth century: Los Angeles County Museum of Art collection of costumes and textiles*. Los Angeles: The Museum, 1983. Located in the Architecture and Fine Arts Library, call number GT585.L64 1983.

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Selections

LACMA mid-Wilshire campus in the 1960s and expansion in the 1980s:

“Los Angeles County Museum of Art.” *Arts and Architecture*, (May 1965) v. 82, p. 16-17. Journal located in the Architecture and Fine Arts Library.

Hugh Hardy and Norman Pfeiffer, “Adding consistency to the LACMA: The new Anderson Building and the Times Mirror central court.” *Spazio e societa*, (January-March, 1988) v.11, no.41, p.20-27. Journal located in the Architecture and Fine Arts Library.

Hunter Drohojowska, Michael Sorkin, “LACMA expands.” *Arts + Architecture*, 1983, new ser., v.2, n.1, p.26-30. Journal located in the Architecture and Fine Arts Library.

Pavilion for Japanese Art:

Brooks Adams, “The delirious palace [Bruce Goff’s Pavilion for Japanese Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art].” *Art in America* (December 1989) v.77, no.12, p.136-145. Journal located in the Architecture and Fine Arts Library.

Bart Prince, “Bruce Goff (preliminary design), Bart Prince (architect): Pavilion for Japanese Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, California, completion: 1988.” *GA Document* (January 1989) no.22, p.112-119. Journal located in the Architecture and Fine Arts Library.

Broad Contemporary Art Museum:

“Renzo Piano: Broad Contemporary Art Museum/BCAM (LACMA expansion - Phase 1), Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.” *GA Document* (May 2008), no. 102, p. 76-85. Journal located in the Architecture and Fine Arts Library.

Patrick McCaughey, “Taming the monster [Broad Contemporary Art Museum, Los Angeles County Museum of Art]” *Apollo* (April 208), v. 167, n. 553, p. 26-32. Journal located in the Architecture and Fine Arts Library.

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