

Art Commissioning Program Fact Sheet

Overview

Contemporary art commissions are a vital part of SFMOMA's commitment to sharing the art of our time with the Bay Area. The SFMOMA art commissioning program invites leading artists to create new works for the museum.

Beginning in 2017, commissioned works will be featured in the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Atrium, part of the free public space on the main level of the expanded museum. The first commission in the Haas, Jr. Atrium will be by artist Julie Mehretu.

The contemporary art commissioning program engages artists from around the world who are working in a wide variety of media, creating a dynamic and ever-changing experience for visitors. Through this program, in conjunction with educational programs, public symposia, artist talks, museum guide training and digital resources, SFMOMA offers illuminating and surprising art experiences for the Bay Area and beyond.

Commissions

- Claudy Jongstra
For the opening of the expanded museum, SFMOMA commissioned Dutch designer Claudy Jongstra to create a monumental, site-specific textile mural, *Aarde* (2016)—meaning “earth” in English—that spans a large wall on the museum’s fifth-floor Barbara and Gerson Bakar Bridge. The work is a visceral landscape of texture and color, using wool from heritage sheep Jongstra raises outside of her studio in the Netherlands and hand-dyed from botanicals cultivated on her farm. For the first time, the artist is also utilizing an application of local minerals and flora for an enhanced surface effect. Working within a closed loop of resources, Jongstra’s work exemplifies a contemporary, socially responsible practice.
- Jason Lazarus
About Time: Photography in a Moment of Change, one of the inaugural exhibitions in the new Pritzker Center for Photography, features a newly commissioned installation by photographer Jason Lazarus entitled *Recordings #3 (At Sea)* (2014–2016).
- Rosana Castrillo Díaz
Commissioned work by Rosana Castrillo Díaz will be on display in the new restaurant on the museum’s ground floor opening in June, In Situ. Castrillo Díaz is making a site-specific mural for the restaurant’s front wall—visible from Third Street—which measures 13 by 23 feet and is situated in the lounge area. The design for the painting consists of a single dahlia, which was named the official flower of San Francisco in 1926. The mural will be executed in five shades of white that range in both tone and reflectivity. Castrillo Díaz is a 2004 SECA Art Award recipient. The biennial art award recognizes Bay Area artists.

- Tucker Nichols
Commissioned work by Tucker Nichols will be on display in the restaurant. Tucker Nichols has created a suite of several dozen framed works on paper that will be installed primarily on the restaurant's back wall, in the main dining area. Responding to Chef Corey Lee's concept of a curated menu of recipes from all over the world, the drawings respond to the graphic, sculptural and sometimes humorous character of contemporary food and its presentation.
- Julie Mehretu
SFMOMA commissioned American artist Julie Mehretu to create two large-scale paintings—each 32 by 25 feet—that will cover the expansive, angled walls in the Haas, Jr. Atrium. Mehretu is known for her densely layered abstract paintings and works on paper, which often incorporate the dynamic visual vocabulary of maps, urban-planning grids and architectural forms. The work will be exhibited in the free public space of the museum in late 2017.

Previous Commissions

SFMOMA has a long history of commissioning artists. Previous artworks commissioned by the museum for the Haas, Jr. Atrium include:

- Jim Campbell, *Exploded Views* (2011)
- Sol LeWitt, *Wall Drawing 935* and *Wall Drawing 936* (2000)
- Kerry James Marshall, *Visible Means of Support: Monticello* and *Visible Means of Support: Mount Vernon* (2009)
- Sarah Sze, *Things Fall Apart* (2001)
- Gu Wenda, *united nations--babel of the millennium* (1999)

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