

NEWS RELEASE



Montclair Art Museum

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For Immediate Release

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H. Lyman Sayen (1875–1918), *Still Life*, c. 1912.
Oil on canvas. Collection of Mrs. Henry Reed.

**THE MONTCLAIR ART MUSEUM PRESENTS
*LOOK NOW: MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART
FROM PRIVATE COLLECTIONS***

**The Exhibition Showcases Works from Modern Masters to Contemporary
Cutting-Edge Artists**

On View February 12 – June 17, 2012

MONTCLAIR, NJ, January 17, 2012—The Montclair Art Museum (MAM) presents *Look Now: Modern and Contemporary Art from Private Collections*, offering a rare opportunity to view nearly 40 works by 31 20th- and 21st-century artists who have extended the boundaries of art making. The exhibition includes works from 17 lenders, from northern New Jersey and Manhattan. The New Jersey lenders are from Montclair, South Orange, Summit, Verona, Watchung, and West Caldwell. The exhibition is on view from February 12 through June 17, 2012. *Look Now* is co-curated by Gail Stavitsky, chief curator, and Alexandra Schwartz, curator of contemporary art.

The exhibition displays a variety of media—including painting, sculpture, video, photography, drawings, and prints—and a diversity of artists in both style and age, demonstrating the range of what is collectible and highlighting the personal visions of the individual collectors.

Look Now features such early 20th-century masters as Andrew Dasburg and Morton Livingston Schamberg; midcentury innovators such as Louise Bourgeois,

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Ryan McGinness (b. 1972),
Duality, 2008, acrylic on canvas.
Collection of Robert Nossa and
Jeffrey Rosa.

Roy Lichtenstein, Alex Katz, and Andy Warhol; and cutting-edge contemporary artists such as Rachel Harrison, Ryan McGinness, and Bill Viola. Their works and those of the others explore many of the major themes and preoccupations within modern and contemporary art, from the development of abstraction in the early 20th century, to the impact of popular culture on the art of the midcentury, to the influence of globalism on contemporary art.

In the first decades of the 20th century, modernists such as Hilla von Rebay and Emil Bisttram developed visual languages of form, color, and line to create abstract compositions, communicating universal aspects of modern life that could not be conveyed through realistic treatments. Beginning in the 1960s, many artists privileged the ideas behind making art over the creation of physical objects, resulting in the pioneering conceptual work of artists such as Joseph Kosuth, who used verbal language to question what art can be and do. Reflecting radically shifting gender roles over the past century, many artists have explored issues of gender and sexuality, as in the work of Louise Bourgeois, Cindy Sherman, Mickalene Thomas, and Rachel Perry Welty. Issues of cultural identity also play an important role in modern and contemporary art, as in the work of Mark Bradford, Jacob Lawrence, and Winfred Rembert. Since the 1980s, large-format photography has emerged as a major medium for contemporary art, as can be seen in the work of Louise Lawler and Michael Eastman, among others in the exhibition. Recently, contemporary art has become increasingly global in scope, and this exhibition features several artists who live and work internationally, such as A. Balasubramaniam, Yayoi Kusama, and Jim Lambie.

Artists in the Exhibition

A. Balasubramaniam (b. 1971)	William Henry Johnson (1901–1970)
Emil Bisttram (1895–1976)	Alex Katz (b. 1927)
Louise Bourgeois (1911–2010)	Joseph Kosuth (b. 1945)
Mark Bradford (b. 1961)	Yayoi Kusama (b. 1929)
Amy Cutler (b. 1974)	Jim Lambie (b. 1964)
Andrew Dasburg (1887–1979)	Jacob Lawrence (1917–2000)
Michael Eastman (b. 1947)	Louise Lawler (b. 1947)
Nancy Graves (1939–1995)	Sol LeWitt (1918–2007)
Rachel Harrison (b. 1966)	Roy Lichtenstein (1923 –1997)

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Ryan McGinness (b. 1972)
Lillian Orlowsky (1914–2004)
Hilla von Rebay (1890–1967)
Winfred Rembert (b. 1945)
Alexis Rockman (b. 1962)
H. Lyman Sayen (1875–1918)
Morton Livingston Schamberg (1881–1918)

Cindy Sherman (b. 1954)
Mickalene Thomas (b. 1971)
Bill Viola (b. 1951)
Andy Warhol (1928–1987)
Rachel Perry Welty (b. 1962)
Steve Wheeler (1912–1992)

Group Tours

Group tours may be booked by calling 973-259-5136 or by emailing tours@montclairartmuseum.org.

Public Programs

MAM is offering a variety of education and public programs for all ages in connection with the exhibition. Please consult the calendar at montclairartmuseum.org for complete information.

Online Press Site

The Museum will maintain a site dedicated to the exhibition for journalists seeking further information, including a checklist and images. Please visit montclairartmuseum.org/press and click on For the Media.

Visit Montclair

For more Montclair experiences, visit websites for the Montclair Center Business Improvement District (www.montclaircenter.com/) and Destination Montclair (www.destinationmontclair.com).

About the Museum

The Montclair Art Museum, a notable, community-based institution with an international reputation, boasts a renowned collection of American and Native American art that uniquely highlights art making in the United States over the last three hundred years. The collection includes more than 12,000 objects: paintings, prints, original works on paper, photographs, and sculpture by American artists from the 18th century to the present, as well as traditional and contemporary Native American art and artifacts representing the cultural developments of peoples from all of the major American Indian regions. The Museum's education programs serve a wide public and bring artists, performers, and scholars to the Museum on a regular basis. MAM's Yard School of Art is the leading regional art school, offering a multitude of comprehensive courses for children, teens, adults, seniors, and professional artists.

The Montclair Art Museum is located at 3 South Mountain Avenue in Montclair, N.J. Information and directions are available on the Museum website, montclairartmuseum.org, or by calling 973-746-5555. MAM is open Wednesdays through Sundays, Noon – 5 p.m., and closed on Mondays, Tuesdays, and major holidays. Museum admission is \$12 for nonmember adults, \$10 for senior citizens and students with I.D., and free for members and children under 12.

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Look Now: Modern and Contemporary Art from Private Collections is presented with generous support from J.P. Morgan.

Additional significant Exhibition Angel support provided by the Vance Wall Foundation, Bob and Bobbie Constable, Tracy Higgins and James Leitner, Jacqueline and Herb Klein, Karen and Larry Mandelbaum, Ann and Mel Schaffer, Toni LeQuire-Schott and Newton B. Schott, Jr., The Susan V. Bershad Charitable Fund, and Margo and Frank Walter.

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