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MCAM celebrates its centennial with an exhibition of major works that emphasize creative community and artist friendships



Elizabeth Murray, *Fling*, 1997, Eight color lithograph on paper, 35 3/4 in. x 26 3/4 in., Museum Purchase, Mrs. John C. Sigourney [Mary Singleton], B.A. 1949, Fund, 2000.10

100 YEARS OF CREATIVE VISIONS

SEPTEMBER 13, 2025 – APRIL 26, 2026

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2025 | 2:00-5:00 PM

Oakland, CA (July 17, 2025) – From its founding in 1925, the Mills College Art Museum has been a forum for exploring art and ideas and a laboratory for contemporary art practices, serving as a hub for artistic experimentation. In celebration of the museum's centennial, *100 Years of*

Creative Visions, on view from September 13, 2025-April 26, 2026, features an intergenerational and cross-cultural selection of major works from the permanent collection that emphasizes creative communities and the importance of artist friendships.

Thanks to the museum's key founder, Albert M. Bender, the museum was an early supporter of contemporary California Impressionist painters and the modernist photographers that formed Group f64, including Ansel Adams and Imogen Cunningham. Bender's interest in Asian art also helped establish the basis for the museum's strong holdings of Japanese textiles, ceramics, and wood-block prints. Under the guidance of its earliest directors, Roi Partridge and Dr. Alfred Neumeyer, the museum showcased important Mexican modernists including Diego Rivera and Rufino Tamayo, while building an impressive group of modern European works on paper, with works by Henri Matisse and Fernand Leger, including an emphasis on German Expressionist and Bauhaus artists.

The museum's strengths in Bay Area postwar art practices are demonstrated in the expressive works of Jay DeFeo and Richard Diebenkorn, as well as in the museum's renowned Antonio Prieto Memorial Collection of 20th-century ceramics. The museum has continued to champion contemporary artists, including Chinese-born painter Hung Liu and others exploring the complexities of cultural identity.

Through its exhibitions, public programs, and collections, the museum engages and inspires the intellectual and creative life of Northeastern University's global network as well as the diverse audiences of the Bay Area. At 100 years old, the Mills College Art Museum remains committed to supporting artistic innovation and continuing an extraordinary legacy of demonstrating advances in contemporary visual arts.

100 Years of Creative Visions is supported by the Joan Danforth Museum Endowment, the Cotton-Prieto Ceramics Fund, and The Jay DeFeo and Hung Liu Endowments.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Centennial Celebration

Saturday, October 4, 2025

2:00-5:00 PM

Additional programming to be announced will include a curator tour of the exhibition and a panel discussion on the history of MCAM moderated by Liam O'Donoghue, host and producer of the East Bay Yesterday podcast.

Visit mcam.oakland.northeastern.edu for details.

About Mills College Art Museum

Founded in 1925, the Mills College Art Museum (MCAM) is an innovative center of creativity that enriches the Northeastern University Global Network, and the Bay Area it calls home, through unique on-the-ground and digital experiences, leveraging technology to erase boundaries, and centering creative voices from across the globe.

Museum hours: Tuesday-Sunday 11:00am-4:00pm, Wednesday 11:00am-7:30pm

Closed Mondays

Closed December 8, 2025 – January 12, 2026, for winter break

Admission is FREE and open to the public.
