

Santa Barbara Museum of Art presents

In the Making: Contemporary Art @ SBMA
Davidson and Colefax Galleries
21 July 2024 – 9 March 2025



Gisela Colón, Skewed Square (Phosphorus), 2022. Blow-molded acrylic. Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Gift of Eugene Fu, 2023.15. © Gisela Colón. Images courtesy of the artist and Efrain Lopez Co.

You can be a museum or you can be modern, but you cannot be both.

—Gertrude Stein

The author's biting quip, made nearly a century ago, posits a dead end for any museum's collection. But is there a way out? If we acknowledge that a contemporary collection is admittedly always "in the making," can a museum be modern if it commits to grappling with change? Since its opening in 1941, the Santa Barbara Museum of Art has exhibited and cared for contemporary and historical artworks alike.

In the Making offers an expansive view of an ever-evolving collection by illustrating the impossible task of pinning down the contemporary, which is never static. The exhibition draws from the museum's collection to display a provocative mix of artworks from 1965 to 2023. It shows how artists continually push the envelope, whether experimenting with optical effects, otherworldly landscapes, or the expressive power of abstraction. Some artists embrace collage and assemblage as ways to explore ethnic and national identities, the deep embeddedness of mass media, or the fuzzy distinction between sculpture and painting. Together, they show how creative reinvention—art in the making—helps us navigate a rapidly changing world.

This exhibition is made possible by

The Museum

Contemporaries

Checklist



Daniel Lind-Ramos
Figura Emisaria, 2020
steel, palm tree branches, dried coconuts, branches, palm tree trunks, wood panels, burlap, concrete blocks, glass aluminum, fabric, lights
Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Museum purchase with funds provided by Kandy Budgor; Luria/Budgor Family Foundation, 2022.7a-s
Daniel Lind-Ramos

© Daniel Lind-Ramos Image courtesy of the artist and The Ranch, Montauk. High-res in P:Drive



Al Held Brughes II, 1981 acrylic on canvas Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Gift of Carol L. Valentine, 1983.53



Rafael Perea de la Cabada

Agua bendita (Holy Water), 2000

acrylic and mixed media on canvas, plastic bottles, cloth, and metal

Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Museum purchase with funds provided by
the 20th Century Art Acquisition Fund, 2000.43



Albert Contreras
Untitled, 2009
acrylic on panel
Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Gift of the Artist and Peter Mendenhall
Gallery, 2010.39



Eduardo MacEntyre
Tramas sobre negro, 1965
oil on canvas
Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Gift of Robert B. and Mercedes H. Eichholz,
2014.17.16



Pierre Soulages 10 Mai 1961, 1961 oil on canvas Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Gift of Robert B. and Mercedes H. Eichholz, 2014.17.25



Sidney Gordin

November 1967 #1 Three Dimensional, 1967
acrylic on board
Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Gift of Beth Rudin DeWoody, 2022.29.1



Garth Weiser
Trends and Predictions for the Year, 2012
Oil on canvas
Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Gift of Dan Aloni and Sarah Brown, 2022.52.1



Whitney Bedford

Veduta (Lacombe Red Pines), 2022
ink and oil on linen on hybrid panel
Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Museum purchase with funds provided by
Kandy Budgor; Luria/Budgor Family Foundation, 2023.2.2

© Whitney Bedford High-res in P:Drive



Jane Dickson
El Nino - Motorcycle II, 1999
Roll-A-Tex, oil on canvas
Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Museum purchase with funds provided by
Kandy Budgor; Luria/Budgor Family Foundation, 2023.20



Vian Sora
Dilmun, 2022
oil and mixed media on canvas
Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Museum purchase with funds provided by
the General Art Acquisition Fund, 2023.42

© Vian Sora, 2022 High-res in P:Drive



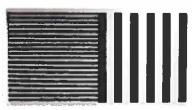
York Chang Sedition, 2022 Archival inkjet on transparent film Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Museum purchase with funds provided by the Contemporary Art Acquisitions Fund, 2023.45.3

© York Chang High-res in P:Drive



Mimi Lauter Sense Four, 2009 soft pastel, oil pastel, color pencil, oil paint on paper SBMA, Gift of Marc Selwyn, Los Angeles, 2023.47.1

© Mimi Lauter
High-res in P:Drive



Sean Scully and Catherine Lee Collaboration, 1980 oil on canvas Collection of Sean Scully

EL.2024.3.1



Marc Handelman *Gorge*, 2005 oil on canvas Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Gift of Marc Selwyn, Los Angeles, 2024.7.1

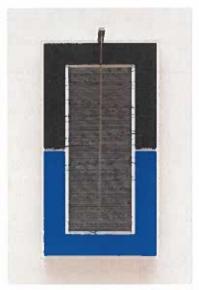


Claire Tabouret

Au Bois d'Amour (printemps), 2023
acrylic paint and ink on paper
Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Gift of Night Gallery, 2023.18



Betye Saar Memories of Kemi, 1974 wood box with miscellaneous materials SBMA, Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Arnold Chanin, 1979.50.1



Jesús Rafael Soto *Untitled*, 1970 metal, painted wood, nylon cord SBMA, Gift of Robert B. and Mercedes H. Eichholz, 1995.50.5

© Estate of Jesus-Rafael Soto/ADAGP.

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Jenny Holzer
The Living Series: There is a period when it is clear..., 1989
bethel white granite
Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Gift of Laura-Lee W. Woods, 2017.20



Gisela Colón (Canadian, b. 1967, active USA) Skewed Square (Phosphorus), 2022 Blow-molded acrylic Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Gift of Eugene Fu, 2023.15

© Gisela Colón Image courtesy of the artist and Efrain Lopez Co.

High-res in P:Drive



Elliott Hundley (American, b. 1975) tearing flesh from bone, 2011 Wood, metal, plastic, rope, found upholstery coils, goat hooves, metal leafing, pine cones, lobster legs, feathers, and epoxy Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Gift of L.L.W.W., 2024.2