



SFMOMA Presents Major Retrospectives for Suzanne Jackson, KAWS and Alejandro Cartagena This Fall

Upcoming Exhibitions Also Honor SFMOMA's Vaunted Photography Collection, SFAI Alumni and More



SAN FRANCISCO, CA (June 17, 2025, updated July 11, 2025) — The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA) announces its summer and fall 2025 exhibition program, featuring a wide range of presentations by artists from the Bay Area and around the globe.

The rich history of the San Francisco Art Institute (SFAI) and its faculty and alumni is highlighted in ***People Make This Place: SFAI Stories***, opening July 26. On August 9, the latest installment of SFMOMA's ongoing *New Work* series opens with a new commission by the legendary fiber artist **Sheila Hicks**.

Suzanne Jackson: What Is Love, opening September 27, is the first retrospective devoted to the full breadth of her career and features more than 80 paintings and drawings from the 1960s to the present. ***(Re)Constructing History***, an exhibition of works from SFMOMA's

photography collection, opens October 4 and reconsiders moments from the history of photography, anchored by Carrie Mae Weems' major series, *Constructing History*.

KAWS: FAMILY opens November 15 and traces the artist's multidimensional output over the last three decades in his first major West Coast museum exhibition. **Alejandro Cartagena: Ground Rules**, opening November 22, is the first retrospective for the acclaimed photographer, whose project-based works have examined environmental and social issues across a broad range of photographic processes.

"This upcoming season's exhibitions reflect SFMOMA's commitment to honoring legacies of art in the Bay Area and highlighting work by the boldest artists working around the world today," said Christopher Bedford, Helen and Charles Schwab Director of SFMOMA. "We believe that every visitor to the museum will find something they can connect with in this remarkable program."

For information on all current and ongoing exhibitions, installations and special projects, visit sfmoma.org/exhibitions.



People Make This Place: SFAI Stories

July 26, 2025–July 5, 2026

Floor 2

Exploring moments from the rich history of the San Francisco Art Institute (SFAI)—the West Coast's oldest fine art school before its closure—this exhibition spotlights works by more than 50 former SFAI faculty and alumni included in the museum's collection. The presentation underscores the school's crucial role in fostering creativity and experimentation, featuring work by artists like Joan Brown, Miguel Calderón, Imogen Cunningham, Mike Henderson, Candice Lin, and Carlos Villa, among others.

The exhibition also includes a dynamic and quirky range of archival materials drawn from the SFMOMA Library and the SFAI Legacy Foundation and Archive, beginning in the post-World War II era with the founding of the school's photography department by Ansel Adams. These include ephemera ranging from posters for 1950s Beat-era galleries run by artist alumni, to student newspapers, to flyers and photographs from the punk and new wave music scenes of the 1970s and early 1980s.

**New Work: Sheila Hicks****August 9, 2025–August 9, 2026**

Floor 4

For nearly seven decades, Sheila Hicks has created groundbreaking works that redefine the expressive possibilities of fiber as a sculptural form. Based in Paris since 1964, she incorporates natural and synthetic materials at a range of scales from intimate weavings made on handheld frames to monumental installations that inhabit architecture.

Hicks's first solo exhibition at SFMOMA will feature a site-specific installation in the museum's *New Work* gallery. The works are inspired by objects, textures and patterns observed in her adopted city or in her migratory life. Each draw from places with personal significance, from the cobblestones of her courtyard to the towering lighthouses of the rocky island of Ouessant, France and its treacherous, perilous and rugged landscape.

The SFMOMA presentation will include the artist's beacon-like comets with vivid, intersecting and multilayered lines that evoke topographical terrains and panels composed of interwoven linen threads. A selection of small works reflects her daily experiments with new structures and materials. A towering central *phare* (lighthouse) of suspended twisting cords will anchor the installation and open new horizons. Reconfigured installations of the artist's signature wrapped *bâtons*, and massive mounds of fiber in vibrant colors show how Hicks continually evolves materials and forms in a process she describes as "walking the tightrope into the future."

The exhibition in SFMOMA's *New Work* gallery continues with an expansive outdoor commission in the museum's Floor 5 sculpture garden.

Since 1987, SFMOMA's *New Work* series has provided a platform for artists to experiment with a new idea or body of work. The series focuses on the innovative visions of living artists and has played a key role in shaping the breadth and character of the museum's collection and programming.



Suzanne Jackson: What Is Love

September 27, 2025–March 1, 2026

Floor 7

For over six decades, Suzanne Jackson has created lyrical, awe-inspiring paintings influenced by her deep respect for the natural world and continual belief in the connection between all living things. Driven by a search for creative freedom and a bohemian spirit indebted to the San Francisco ethos of the 1950s and 1960s in which she was raised, Jackson has led an expansive artistic life, first and foremost as a painter, and as a dancer, poet, theater designer and an ardent supporter of other artists.

This retrospective, the first devoted to the full breadth of Jackson's career, celebrates her groundbreaking artistic vision through more than 80 paintings and drawings from the 1960s to the present that emphasize her innovative use of color, light and structure to expand the parameters of painting and illuminate beauty, peace and love. Organized chronologically, the exhibition spans early ethereal compositions on canvas that layer luminous washes of pigment and imagery from her dreams to recent three-dimensional, otherworldly paintings that suspend acrylic paint in mid-air and are often embedded with materials that draw on ancestral and cultural histories. The presentation concludes with a new large-scale commission that reflects on the global environmental crisis and addresses themes of migration and improvisation.



(Re)Constructing History**October 4, 2025–May 3, 2026**

Floor 3

(Re)Constructing History embraces the possibility for photographs to both record an instant and capture the history embedded within the present. Borrowing its title from artist Carrie Mae Weems' series, *Constructing History*, this exhibition invites audiences to imagine the layers of history we encounter through a seemingly fixed image.

Across three galleries, photographs explore complicated, painful and familiar histories. The first gallery examines Wall Street as a symbol of American power through its historic and modern depictions, while the second features artists who rework visual traditions through reference and appropriation. The final gallery considers how photography is uniquely positioned to expose the hidden forces behind changing environments and landmark formation.

In addition to Weems, this presentation celebrates contemporary Black artists Nona Faustine, Carla Williams and Dawoud Bey as anchors in each respective gallery. These artists create works that move beyond static, fixed documents, offering imaginative images that reveal stories of Black life previously unseen or unconsidered.



KAWS: FAMILY**November 15, 2025–May 3, 2026**

Floor 4

KAWS: FAMILY is a dazzling exploration of the multidimensional work of American artist KAWS. Marking the artist's first major museum exhibition on the West Coast, it traces the artist's output over the past three decades through its keen ability to connect to shared emotions and culture. From paintings, drawings and sculptures to advertising interventions, product collaborations and limited-edition collectible toys, visitors will encounter the many creative expressions of KAWS's distinctive language using recurring characters and pop culture appropriations.

At the heart of the exhibition is *FAMILY* (2021), a larger-than-life bronze sculpture that portrays KAWS's beloved characters COMPANION, BFF and CHUM grouped as an intimate family unit. Through their gestures of closeness and vulnerability, visitors can see themselves reflected in these figures, creating a shared sense of kinship and empathy. Borrowing from popular animated characters and cultural icons, KAWS's characters recontextualize familiar imagery, creating a dialogue around cultural memory and contemporary life.



Alejandro Cartagena: Ground Rules

November 22, 2025–April 19, 2026

Floor 3

Alejandro Cartagena: Ground Rules is the first major retrospective of the acclaimed photographer, bringing together over two decades of his work through an expansive multi-series presentation. Born in the Dominican Republic and based in Monterrey, Mexico, Cartagena explores pressing social and environmental issues through a striking range of photographic practices that includes documentary images, collage, appropriated vernacular photographs and AI-generated video. His work captures the complexities of suburban sprawl, the US-Mexico border and increasing economic inequality. As visually dynamic as they are politically incisive, his photographs prompt viewers to question the systems that shape our world. Though rooted in Mexico, Cartagena's photographic series speak to shared global conditions of migration, environmental crisis and unchecked development, offering a powerful reflection on the broader forces defining life in the 21st century.

CREDITS



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San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

151 Third Street

San Francisco, CA 94103

The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art is one of the largest museums of modern and contemporary art in the United States and a thriving cultural center for the Bay Area. Our remarkable collection of painting, sculpture, photography, architecture, design and media arts is housed in a LEED Gold-certified building designed by the global architects Snøhetta and Mario Botta. In addition to our seven gallery floors, SFMOMA offers more than 45,000 square feet of free, art-filled public space open to all.

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Media Contacts

Clara Hatcher Baruth, chatcher@sfmoma.org, 415.357.4177

Rebecca Herman, rherman@sfmoma.org, 415.357.4174

Alex Gill, agill@sfmoma.org, 415.357.4170

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