



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# MAYA LIN MAPPINGS



**Northampton, MA, March 9, 2022**—Smith College Museum of Art (SCMA) will host the exhibition *Maya Lin: Mappings*, January 28–August 7, 2022, by noted American architectural designer and artist Maya Lin.

*Maya Lin: Mappings* showcases the artistic practice of artist and designer Maya Lin (American, born 1959). The exhibition focuses on Lin’s exploration of nature and the natural environment to engage viewers with complex issues such as climate change, species extinction and the relationship between humans and the world we inhabit. The exhibition complements the Fall 2021 completion of the newly reimagined Neilson Library, a major building project on the Smith College campus designed by Lin, and provides an expanded view of Lin’s engagement with placemaking.

This exhibition is supported by the Ann Weinbaum Solomon, class of 1959, Fund, and the Judith Plesser Targan, class of 1953, Fund.

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## **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

[Maya Lin](#) is known for her large-scale environmental artworks, her architectural works and her memorial designs. Her unique multi-disciplinary career has “resisted categories, boundaries and borders” (Michael Brenson). In her book *Boundaries*, she writes, “I see myself existing between boundaries, a place where opposites meet; science and art, art and architecture, East and West. My work originates from a simple desire to make people aware of their surroundings”

Nature and the environment have long been central concerns for Lin, who attended Yale University, where she earned a B.A. in 1981 and a Master of Architecture degree in 1986. Lin was thrust into the spotlight when, as a senior at Yale, she submitted the winning design in a national competition for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to be built in Washington, D.C. She has gone on to a remarkable career in both art and architecture, while still being committed to memory works that focus on some of the critical historical issues of our time.

Her artwork has been featured in numerous solo exhibitions at museums and galleries worldwide, with works in the permanent collections of the National Gallery of Art; The Metropolitan Museum of Art; The Museum of Modern Art; The Smithsonian Institution; The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art; and the California Academy of Sciences, among others. She is represented by the Pace Gallery in New York.

Her architectural projects, largely undertaken at the request of non-profit institutions include the newly renovated Neilson Library (2021) at Smith College (see below), the Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research, Cambridge Campus (2015) in Massachusetts, the Museum for Chinese in America (2009) in New York City and the Riggio-Lynch Interfaith Chapel (2004) and Langston Hughes Library (1999) in Clinton, Tennessee. Her designs create a close dialogue between the landscape and built environment, oftentimes juxtapose old and new construction, strive to be harmonious within their site—whether it be an urban or rural setting—and she is committed to advocating sustainable design solutions in all her works.

In 2009, Maya Lin started work on her last memorial, [What is Missing?](#), an ongoing, multi-sited, multimedia installation that raises awareness about habitat loss and biodiversity loss, emphasizing how protecting and restoring habitats can help protect species and significantly reduce climate change emissions.

[Excerpted from mayalinstudio.com website](#)

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## **RENOVATED NEILSON LIBRARY**

Ms. Lin completed the [Smith College Neilson Library](#) in 2020 when it reopened to the campus community. Begun in 2018, the five-story, 153,865 gross-square-foot project is Lin's first college library and one of the most significant capital projects in Smith College's history.

Nine years ago, when Smith College set out to re-imagine Neilson Library, the college envisioned, in the words of President Kathleen McCartney, a “modern library that is not only functional but forward-looking—a library that will showcase our collections and enrich our community in ways we can only begin to imagine.”

Architectural designer Maya Lin's re-imagined Neilson Library is an innovative, contemporary structure that presents a compelling vision for the modern library while respecting the building's historic significance.

Maya Lin Studio developed the design in partnership with colleague William Bialosky and the firm of Shepley Bulfinch. Landscape architecture is by Lin with landscape designer Edwina von Gal (in collaboration with Ryan Associates).

In [an artist's statement](#), Lin says she envisioned the re-imagined Neilson as “a dialogue between old and new.”

[Excerpted from Smith College News Release](#)

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## **VISITING SCMA and the NEW NEILSON LIBRARY**

The Smith College Museum of Art is currently open to the public. Masks are required for entry. Visitors are encouraged to wear surgical or KN95/KF94 masks.

Smith College libraries are open to Smith students, faculty and staff who are in the campus COVID-19 screening program. Emeriti faculty, Five College students who are registered for a Smith course and Smith research affiliates are also welcomed. Please note that an active OneCard is required for access to either swipe in or to show upon entry. *An announcement about when the libraries will be open to the general public will be made once conditions allow.*

## **ABOUT SCMA**

The Smith College Museum of Art is open to the public. For updated SCMA COVID-19 protocols, visit: [scma.smith.edu](https://scma.smith.edu)

As a teaching museum affiliated with Smith College, SCMA is dedicated to connecting people to art, ideas and each other by engaging people with firsthand experiences of art, artists and museum practice; collecting, researching, presenting and preserving an expansive collection of art in the service of learning, teaching and critical dialogue; and by fostering an environment that welcomes diverse perspectives and inspires imagination.

In SCMA's galleries, classrooms, and Cunningham Center for the Study of Prints, Drawings, and Photographs, visitors experience a world-class collection that includes modern and contemporary art, American and western European masterworks, antiquities, emerging collections of Asian and African art, and a comprehensive collection of works on paper.

SCMA and the Museum Shop are open to the public year-round Tuesday–Sunday, 11am to 4pm.

An accredited member of the American Alliance of Museums and a founding member of Museums10, a regional cultural collaboration, SCMA is also a member of the College Art Association and the New England Museum Association.

COVID-19 updates and to plan your visit: [scma.smith.edu](https://scma.smith.edu)

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Image: Maya Lin. American, born 1959. Detail of *The Polar Ice Caps - From the North to the South Poles*, 2017. Recycled atlas. 1-1/2" x 20-3/4" x 13-1/2" open; 1-1/4" x 10-1/8" x 13-1/2", closed. Photograph by Kerry Ryan McFate, courtesy Pace Gallery

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