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Smith College Museum of Art (SCMA) Announces Summer/Fall 2020 Plans, “SCMA from Home,” and Commemoration of “SCMA100”

The Smith College Museum of Art (SCMA) will remain closed to the general public at least through December 2020 as part of the “*Culture of Care*” plans for the fall 2020 academic semester that were announced by Smith College on July 6. The decision to close Smith campus buildings to outside visitors supports Smith’s commitment to protecting the health and safety of students who will be studying and living on campus this fall.

Central to the museum’s plan for the fall is our commitment to offering easy access to a broad range of free digital content, with the museum’s website providing the main hub and entry point.

In support of the college’s curriculum, museum staff members are partnering with Smith faculty and administrators to sustain access to museum resources for both Smith students and faculty. As part of this plan, Smith students and faculty will have the opportunity to visit the museum on a limited basis during the fall semester. (Details related to Smith-only visits will be announced to the Smith community at a later date.)

Throughout the fall, as part of the museum’s ongoing commitment to maintaining a close connection with its broad-based community, SCMA’s well-loved permanent collection will be the focus of two significant projects commemorating “SCMA100,” the centennial of the museum. The general public will have access to a new museum exhibition celebrating “SCMA100” — “SCMA Then\Now\Next” — through a variety of digital experiences via SCMA’s [website](#). When it launches in late-August, the in-depth exhibition website will include video and audio content, along with images of selected artworks and installation views. It will also feature related virtual programs to be offered free of charge during the fall months.

“SCMA from Home” The virtual museum

SCMA has been closed to the public since March 14, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Soon after closing, the museum launched “*SCMA from Home*,” a section of its website dedicated to sharing both newly-created and archived digital content. Featured current posts on “SCMA from Home” include information about “*Summer Tea with Curators: The Five Senses*,” a new five-part live webinar series hosted by the museum’s curators that will explore the senses through the lens of the permanent collection; a virtual gallery tour of the recent exhibition, “*A Dust Bowl of Dog Soup*,” and posts from “*SCMA Insider*,” the museum’s blog. The museum’s [YouTube channel](#) also offers an ongoing source of fresh and archived SCMA content, including recorded museum talks and tours; and the [SCMA Shop](#) remains open and accessible for online shopping.

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Also in the fall, SCMA will partner with the Smith College Art Department on a digital lecture series called “Art Stockings: Dialogues on Art, Gender, and Cultural Theory,” which invites artists to speak about issues of contemporary art practice and process.

All current SCMA [virtual content](#) is free and available to everyone via the museum’s website, [scma.smith.edu](#). Programming is designed to serve the museum’s varied and multi-generational audiences, including Smith students, faculty and staff, museum members and supporters, Smith alums, academic researchers and scholars, teachers and families, and the general public.

SCMA100/Centennial: Virtual programming for all

- “SCMA Then\Now\Next,” a large-scale exhibition that will be installed in the galleries with accompanying digital content and phased physical access over the coming academic year, is scheduled to launch online later this summer. It will be available in a hybrid approach to content-sharing and will explore what it means to *make* a museum and how museums are *remade* over time.
- Juxtaposing more than 100 artworks from the collection across time, geography, and media, the exhibition will reveal the museum’s evolving vision and values over the past 100 years. This centennial project provides an opportunity to examine SCMA’s history in order to understand the present and envision a more inclusive and equitable future.
- The general public will have immediate access to “SCMA Then\Now\Next” through a variety of digital experiences via SCMA’s [website](#). When it becomes available in late-August, this in-depth exhibition website will include video and audio content, along with images of selected artworks and installation views. It will also feature related virtual programs to be offered free of charge during the fall.
- A new poetry anthology that is a collaboration between SCMA and the Smith College Poetry Center, “The Map of Every Lilac Leaf, Poets Respond to the Smith College Museum of Art,” will be published in early October. Forty American poets contributed original poetry to this fully illustrated book; all of the poems were inspired by works of art in the museum’s collection. Contributors include former U.S. Poets Laureate Billy Collins and Robert Pinsky, Elizabeth Alexander and Richard Blanco (who both read poems at President Obama’s inaugurations), and six Smith College alumnae.
- Both of these centennial projects, “SCMA Then\Now\Next” and “The Map of Every Lilac Leaf,” will be accompanied by a series of virtual-only free public programs, including a curators-in-dialogue series exploring “SCMA: Then\Now\Next,” and a poetry reading on September 22 by Mark Doty, a contributor to the poetry anthology who is also the author of an introductory essay.
- The publication of the anthology will be celebrated in two other notable programs as well: In late-September, poet Mark Doty and Director of Smith’s Poetry Center, Matt Donovan, will participate in an online art conversation with Jessica Nicoll, SCMA’s director and chief curator. On October 6, the publication of “The Map of Every Lilac Leaf” will be launched with a virtual reading by contributing poets who are Smith alums. Additional details about SCMA100 programming — including events related to the poetry anthology — will be announced later this summer.

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Further details about all of SCMA’s upcoming virtual programming will be announced on the museum’s website, [scma.smith.edu](#).

[The Smith College Museum of Art \(SCMA\)](#) is committed to connecting people to art, ideas and each other. SCMA is recognized as one of the leading academic museums in the United States, contributing meaningfully to the mission of Smith College: To educate women of promise for lives of distinction and purpose. SCMA’s collection of nearly 28,000

artworks spans from antiquity to the present and supports teaching and learning across the curriculum of the college.
To learn about the museum, visit scma.smith.edu and follow the museum on social media.

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