

# HAMMER NEWS RELEASE

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Media Inquiries: Gia Storms, 310-443-7056, [gstorms@hammer.ucla.edu](mailto:gstorms@hammer.ucla.edu)

## Hammer Museum Announces Major Multiyear Transformation Plan, 40,000 Square Feet of New Space & Dramatic New Presence along Full City Block



*Southern Façade on Wilshire Boulevard, courtesy of MMA.*

(Los Angeles, CA)—The Hammer Museum released details of a major multiyear plan to renovate the museum’s existing facility and activate 40,000 square feet of newly acquired space in the adjoining office tower. The ambitious project, led by renowned architect and longtime Hammer partner Michael Maltzan, will completely reimagine the existing building by 2020. The museum will have a major presence along Wilshire Boulevard, fronting a full city block with the museum lobby and gallery spaces. Moreover, it will dramatically increase visibility and accessibility in anchoring the corner of Wilshire and Westwood.

“After years of continuous growth, the Hammer is in need of a physical expansion and upgrade to provide more art for our audiences, more places to study, and more places to gather,” said **Hammer Museum Director Ann Philbin**. “This transformation will provide 60% more exhibition space including collection galleries and a works on paper gallery to highlight our growing collection of photographs and drawings. We invite all of Los Angeles to enjoy the first stage in our transformation as we open major exhibitions by Jimmie Durham and Jean Dubuffet—this is just the beginning.”

“The Hammer has become an essential destination in Los Angeles. This transformation will make it dramatically more visible and inviting, more connected, more immersive. It will mark a major new chapter for what the Hammer is, and what it can be,” said **Michael Maltzan**.

The current renovation plan builds on Maltzan’s longstanding partnership with the Hammer, which includes the design of the museum’s Billy Wilder Theater (2006), courtyard (2012), and John V. Tunney Bridge (2015). Originally built to showcase a private collection of historical paintings, the Hammer Museum has grown over 25 years to become an internationally recognized institution devoted to contemporary art and culture. Having outgrown the physical space for exhibitions, programs, and staff, the museum plans building improvements that encompass everything from the lobby to the courtyard to the galleries to the office tower.

Beginning with the recent renovation of the third floor galleries to modernize and enlarge the existing exhibition space, the Hammer now has 10,000 square feet of contiguous gallery space which is required for major traveling shows. The transformation will continue to improve every facet of the building and every aspect of museum work. Key project goals include:

- Expanding the galleries by 60% including two major newly constructed galleries to highlight our growing collection
- Increasing visibility of the museum with a dramatic new presence along a full city block of Wilshire Boulevard
- Enhancing 20,000 square feet of community spaces to make the museum more accessible and inviting to both visitors and passersby
- Creating premier facilities to showcase L.A.'s third largest collection and make the Hammer's outstanding works accessible to students, scholars, and the public
- Supporting the museum's intellectual, creative, and operational capacity with a two-story expansion of workspace

The Hammer Museum building was originally designed by Edward Larrabee Barnes, and has over the last decade been enhanced and renovated by architect Michael Maltzan. The office tower building, now owned by UCLA, was designed by architect Claud Beelman, a leader in the Art Deco and Modern movements on the West Coast in the middle of the last century.

#### **ABOUT THE HAMMER MUSEUM**

The Hammer Museum at UCLA offers exhibitions and collections that span classic to contemporary art, as well as programs that spark meaningful encounters with art and ideas. Through a wide-ranging, international exhibition program and the biennial, *Made in L.A.*, the Hammer highlights contemporary art since the 1960s, especially the work of emerging and under recognized artists. The exhibitions, permanent collections, and nearly 300 public programs annually—including film screenings, lectures, symposia, readings, music performances, and workshops for families—are all free to the public.

#### **HAMMER MUSEUM INFORMATION**

Admission to all exhibitions and programs at the Hammer Museum is free, made possible through the generosity of benefactors Erika J. Glazer and Brenda R. Potter.

Hours: Tuesday–Friday 11 a.m.–8 p.m., Saturday & Sunday 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Closed Mondays and national holidays. Hammer Museum, 10899 Wilshire Boulevard at Westwood, Los Angeles. Onsite parking \$6 (maximum 3 hours) or \$6 flat rate after 6 p.m. Visit [hammer.ucla.edu](http://hammer.ucla.edu) for details or call 310-443-7000.

#### **ABOUT MICHAEL MALTZAN**

Deeply rooted in Los Angeles, architect Michael Maltzan was commissioned by the Hammer Museum in 2000 to create a master plan for the building. Over the last sixteen years, he has been an invaluable partner and driving force in reshaping the museum, through bold interventions including the Billy Wilder Theater, the Lab and café, and most recently, the iconic John V. Tunney Bridge.

Founded in 1995, Michael Maltzan Architecture is renowned for its educational spaces, private homes, civic projects, and art buildings, including L.A.'s Inner-City Arts campus, the renovation of MoMA QNS in New York, and the future Sixth Street Bridge in downtown Los Angeles. In September 2016, Maltzan was named the 2016 Gold Medal Presidential Honoree by the AIA Los Angeles.

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