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**Hammer Museum Presents *Sarah Lucas: Au Naturel*  
West Coast Debut of First Major U.S. Survey of Sarah Lucas  
On View June 9 — September 1, 2019**



(Los Angeles, CA)— The Hammer Museum presents *Sarah Lucas: Au Naturel*, the first major survey in the United States of the work of British artist Sarah Lucas (b. 1962, London, UK). The Hammer is the only venue on the tour and the exhibition is the first time the work of this internationally acclaimed artist will be shown in depth in Los Angeles. Over the past 30 years, Lucas has created a distinctive and provocative body of work. She transforms found objects and everyday materials such as furniture, cigarettes, vegetables, and household appliances into absurd and confrontational tableaux that boldly challenge social norms. The human body and anthropomorphic forms recur throughout Lucas's works, often appearing erotic, humorous, fragmented, or reconfigured into fantastical anatomies of desire. Organized by the New Museum, *Sarah Lucas: Au Naturel* brings together more than 130 works in photography, collage, sculpture, and video to reveal the breadth of her practice. The exhibition will be on view June 9–September 1, 2019.

"We are thrilled to present works by Sarah Lucas and introduce West Coast audiences to the full span of one of the UK's most important artists of the last few decades," **Hammer Director Ann Philbin** said. "I have always admired Lucas's ingenious use of materials and objects, and her irreverent candor and wit in confronting cultural taboos surrounding gender, power, death, sex, and religion."

Initially associated with a group known as the Young British Artists (YBAs), who began exhibiting together in London in the late 1980s, Lucas is now one of the UK's most influential artists. *Au Naturel* addresses the ways in which Lucas's works engage with crucial debates about gender and power—with particular attentiveness to the legacy of surrealism—from her clever modifications of everyday objects to her exploration of sexual ambiguity and the tension between the mundane and the strange.

*Au Naturel* features some of Lucas's most important projects, including early sculptures from the 1990s that substitute domestic furniture for human body parts and enlarged spreads from tabloid newspapers from the same period that reflect objectified representations of the female body. In addition to the photographic self-portraits that Lucas has produced throughout her career, the exhibition features biomorphic sculptures including her stuffed-stockings *Bunnies* (1997–ongoing) and *NUDS* (2009–ongoing), the *Penetrabilia* series (2008–ongoing), and selections from her installations at the Freud

Image captions (L-R): Sarah Lucas, *Bunny Gets Snookered #9*, 1997. Tan tights, yellow stockings, office chair, clamp, kapok and wire, 41 × 18 7/8 × 26 in. (104 × 48 × 66 cm). Collection of Stephen and Yana Peel, London. © Sarah Lucas. Courtesy of the artist and Sadie Coles HQ, London; Sarah Lucas, *Self-portrait with Fried Eggs*, 1996, C-print, 60 × 48 in (152.4 × 121.9 cm). © Sarah Lucas. Courtesy Sadie Coles HQ, London; Sarah Lucas, *Au Naturel*, 1994, Mattress, melons, oranges, cucumber, and water bucket, 33 1/8 × 66 1/8 × 57 in (84 × 168.8 × 144.8 cm). © Sarah Lucas. Courtesy Sadie Coles HQ, London.

Museum in London (2000) and the British Pavilion at the Venice Biennale (2015). These works, which subvert traditional notions of gender and complicate inscribed codes of sexuality and social normativity, have never been shown together before this survey.

The title of the exhibition, *Au Naturel*, is taken from a sculpture Lucas created in 1994, in which an assemblage of objects suggestive of sexual organs adorns a mattress that slumps in the corner as if it were reclining. In an art historical context, “au naturel” commonly refers to paintings of female nude figures, and literally translates from French as “in the nude.” Applying the term to Lucas’s greater body of work, the title speaks to the immediacy, intimacy, and directness of her images and speculates on the possibility of a natural state, perhaps without the limitations of established social structures and gender conformity.

*Sarah Lucas: Au Naturel* is organized by the New Museum, New York. The exhibition is curated by Massimiliano Gioni, *Edlis Neeson Artistic Director*, and Margot Norton, curator. The Hammer’s presentation is organized by Anne Ellegood, senior curator, with Nika Chilewich, curatorial assistant.

#### **EXHIBITION CATALOGUE**

A fully illustrated catalogue copublished by the New Museum and Phaidon Press accompanies the exhibition. The catalogue includes an interview with Sarah Lucas conducted by Massimiliano Gioni, as well as contributions by Whitney Chadwick, Anne Ellegood, Angus Fairhurst, Quinn Latimer, Maggie Nelson, Linda Nochlin, Margot Norton, and Anne Wagner. The volume will be available in the Hammer Store and online at [store.hammer.ucla.edu](http://store.hammer.ucla.edu)

#### **RELATED PROGRAMS**

##### **Summer Exhibitions Celebration**

**Saturday, June 8, 8–11 p.m.**

Free and open to the public, with food and cash bar all night. Hammer members receive priority entry and a free first drink.

##### **Sarah Lucas & Maggie Nelson**

**Sunday, June 9, 2:30 p.m.**

The artist Sarah Lucas is joined in conversation by critic, author, poet, and 2016 MacArthur Fellow Maggie Nelson.

##### **Curator Walk-through**

**Sunday, June 23, 2 p.m.**

Anne Ellegood, senior curator, and Nika Chilewich, curatorial assistant, lead a walk-through of the exhibition.

##### **Artist Walk-throughs**

In these informal, 45-minute gallery talks, artists and scholars discuss specific works in the exhibition.

##### **Julian Hoerber**

**Thursday, June 13, 6 p.m.**

##### **Monica Majoli**

**Thursday, June 20, 6 p.m.**

##### **Jade Gordon & Megan Whitmarsh**

**Thursday, June 27, 6 p.m.**

##### **Ragen Moss**

**Wednesday, July 10, 6 p.m.**

##### **Charles Long**

**Tuesday, July 16, 6 p.m.**

##### **Kelly Akashi**

**Thursday, August 22, 6 p.m.**

##### **Exhibition Tours**

**Saturdays, June 15–August 31, 1 p.m.**

Educators lead tours of the exhibition.

**CREDIT LINE**

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**ABOUT THE HAMMER MUSEUM**

The Hammer Museum is part of the School of the Arts and Architecture at UCLA, and offers exhibitions and collections that span classic to contemporary art. It holds more than 50,000 works in its collection, including one of the finest collections of works on paper in the nation, the Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts. 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 \$7 (maximum 3 hours) or \$7 flat rate after 6 p.m. Visit [hammer.ucla.edu](http://hammer.ucla.edu) for details or call 310-443-7000.