

For Immediate Release: May 23, 2022
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**Hammer Museum Presents *Drawing Down the Moon*
 June 19-September 11, 2022**



(Los Angeles, CA)— The Hammer Museum at UCLA presents *Drawing Down the Moon*, an exhibition that surveys the iconography of the moon and is drawn exclusively from institutional collections and artist studios of Los Angeles. Well-known works of art such as Caspar David Friederich’s *A Walk at Dusk* (1830-1835) are displayed alongside unexpected objects like an 18th-century moon-shaped rabbit in ivory from Japan. Organized by Allegra Pesenti, *Drawing Down the Moon* will be on view from June 19 to September 11, 2022.

The moon has served the most elemental and vital functions such as providing light and measuring time, and it has sourced the more intangible and spiritual realm of gods and myths. Throughout the world, cultures have associated their own symbols and traditions with the moon, and each has invoked it in its own manner. *Drawing Down the Moon* leads the visitor through a panoply of objects dating from antiquity to the present. Objects from the Hammer’s Grunwald Center Collection and Hammer Contemporary Collection are complemented by loans from The Broad, Caltech Library, The Claremont Colleges Library, Getty Research Institute, J. Paul Getty Museum, LACMA, Norton Simon Museum, The Philosophical Research Society Library, and UCLA Library.

“This exhibition traces humanity’s long fascination with the moon,” said Hammer Museum director Ann Philbin. “Allegra Pesenti has assembled a sublime array of objects from the collections of the Hammer and other museums and libraries that capture the moon’s ineffable magic. From etchings and drawings to monumental paintings and rare editions illustrating the earliest scientific discoveries of the moon, the variety of objects and perspectives creates a truly compelling exhibition.”

Drawing Down the Moon is the title of a 1979 book on contemporary paganism in the United States by the late author and Wiccan priestess Margot Adler. It refers to an ancient ritual performed by witches who would summon the moon to speak through the body of a high priestess. The exhibition is loosely organized according to thematic sections that begin in the ethereal and magical realms of the moon and end with the more tangible and scientific examinations of the moon:

- Magic and the Moon
- The Feminine Moon
- Lunar Deities

Images (L-R): Unknown maker, Japan, Moon-Shaped Rabbit, 18th century. Ivory with staining, sumi. 1 7/8 × 1 5/8 × 1 in. (4.8 × 4.2 × 2.5 cm). Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Raymond and Frances Bushell Collection; Caspar David Friedrich, *A Walk at Dusk*, ca. 1830–35. Oil on canvas. 13 1/4 × 17 in. (33.7 × 43.2 cm). The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles; Alison Saar, *Eclipse*, 2017. Etching, aquatint. Sheet: 18 × 18 in. (45.7 × 45.7 cm). UCLA Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts, Hammer Museum. Purchased with funds provided by the Marcia Weisman Endowment Fund © 2017 Alison Saar

- The Mystical Moon
- Worship
- Form
- The Dark Side of the Moon
- The Material Moon

Works such as Zarina's collaged rendering of the moon in pewter leaves and the 16th-century engraving *Virgin and Child on a Crescent Moon* by Hieronimus Wierix underscore the breadth of works on paper in this exhibition. Tsukioka Yoshitoshi's exceptional series of Ukiyo-e prints *One Hundred Aspects of the Moon* of 1885-92 that pays homage to the custom of 'moon-viewing' entrenched in Japanese culture, and *Luna*, a Roman bronze sculpture of the Goddess of the Moon from the 1st century BC are among the rarest works on display in the exhibition. Contemporary artists featured in *Drawing Down the Moon* include Betye Saar, who often invokes the mystical moon of voodoo rites in her assemblage works, and Laura Owens, who draws on a historical tradition of moonscapes in painting. A special selection of scientific books in the exhibition includes Galileo Galilei's groundbreaking *Siderius Nuncius* (Starry Messenger) of 1610 and Joannes Regiomontanus's *Calendarium* of 1476.

Drawing Down the Moon will delve into the historical trove of art and science through a quintessentially timeless subject matter. Overall, the exhibition will explore the underlying tensions between reality and fiction that the moon continues to engender today.

RELATED PROGRAMS

Curator Walk-through

Sunday, June 19, 1pm

Curator Allegra Pesenti leads a walk-through of the exhibition

Lunchtime Art Talks

Hammer curatorial staff members* lead 15-minute in-person discussions on a work of art. Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m.

June 22

James Nasmyth and James Carpenter

The Moon: Considered as a Planet, a World, and a Satellite, 1874

*Matthieu Vahanian

June 29

Chris Ofili

Afro Lunar Lovers II, 2005

*Ikechukwu Onyewuenyi

August 10

Diane Arbus

A Castle in Disneyland, California, 1964, 1964

*Nicholas Barlow

August 17

Kiki Kogelnik

Moon Baby, 1968

*Matthieu Vahanian

August 24

Marjorie Cameron

Moon Danse, n.d.

*Erin Christovale

August 31

Silke Otto-Knapp

Seascape (With Moon), 2016

*Aram Moshayedi

Visit hammer.ucla.edu for a full list of related programs, including a concert, a screening, a lecture by **Dr. Edwin Krupp** of the Griffith Observatory, and exhibition walk-throughs led by artists **Francesca Gabbiani**, **Jennifer Bolande**, and **Elliot Hundley**.

CREDITS

Drawing Down the Moon is organized by Allegra Pesenti, former associate director and senior curator, Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts, Hammer Museum.

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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. Tuesday-Sunday: 11am to 6pm. 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 for details or call 310-443-7000.