

# HAMMER NEWS RELEASE

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## Hammer Museum Announces *Alice Coltrane, Monument Eternal* First Museum Exhibition Dedicated to the Legacy of Alice Coltrane



**Opening February 9, 2025, *Monument Eternal* features works by 19 artists and pieces from Coltrane’s archive on public view for the first time**

(Los Angeles, CA) — The Hammer Museum at UCLA is thrilled to present [\*Alice Coltrane, Monument Eternal\*](#), the first museum exhibition inspired by the life and legacy of jazz musician and devotional leader, **Alice Coltrane** (1937–2007). Curated by **Erin Christovale**, the exhibition features archival ephemera from the Coltrane’s archive alongside works by 19 American artists, including **Steven Ellison** (aka **Flying Lotus**), **Star Feliz**, **Rashid Johnson**, **Jasper Marsalis**, **Cauleen Smith**, **Martine Syms**, and more. Works featured in the show range from sculpture, painting, and photography to installation and performance, and many works were created especially for this exhibition. They are presented alongside ephemera from Coltrane’s personal archive—much of which has never before been on view—including handwritten correspondence, unreleased audio recordings, and rarely seen video footage. *Alice Coltrane, Monument Eternal* will be on view at the Hammer from February 9 to May 4, 2025. This exhibition is part of a larger initiative called “The Year of Alice”, and in partnership with the John & Alice Coltrane Home.

The exhibition’s title takes its name from Coltrane’s 1977 book *Monument Eternal*, an insightful reflection on her spiritual beliefs and ever-evolving, genre-bending music. This groundbreaking and multisensorial exhibition calls forward Alice’s autobiography and brings together a collective of contemporary Black American artists whose lives and practices were impacted and influenced by Coltrane. The exhibition is divided into three themes that honor and highlight the expansive nature of

Images (L-R): Alice Coltrane playing the harp, 1970. Photo: Chuck Stewart. © Chuck Stewart Photography, LLC / Fireball Entertainment Group; Jasper Marsalis, *Event 3*, 2020. Oil on canvas. 60 x 80 in. (152.4 x 203.2 cm). Collection of Scott and Cissy Wolfe, Rancho Santa Fe, CA. Courtesy of the artist and Kristina Kite Gallery, Los Angeles. Photo: Brica Wilcox. Nikita Gale, *GRAVITY SOLO I (HYPERPERFORMANCE)*, 2022. Plexiglas box, amp, keyboard, speakers, red calcite, stereo audio. 22 x 22 x 12 in. (55.9 x 55.9 x 30.5 cm). Collection of Liv Barrett and Patrick Collins. Courtesy of Petzel and Nikita Gale Studio. Photo: Elon Schoenholz

Coltrane's creativity and artistry: **Sonic Innovation, Spiritual Transcendence, and Architectural Intimacy.**

### **Sonic Innovation**

Emanating from Coltrane's undeniable musical virtuosity, this section is comprised of ephemera, paintings, and sculptures that spotlight the many musical facets of the artist and her inclination to a constant experimentation with instruments and sound.

Selected images from Coltrane's archive substantially shape this section, displaying never-seen-before images of Coltrane throughout her creative journey; contact sheets by photographer **Chuck Stewart** depict Coltrane's initial experimentation with the harp and outtakes from photo sessions for her landmark album covers.

Artist **Jamal Cyrus**, whose practice relies on the lexicon of collage and assemblage to capture Black American histories and political movements, features an upturned silver-plated saxophone perched on a steel beam flaked into a neat square foot of railroad track rubble. **Jasper Marsalis** offers his serial *Event* paintings, featuring vividly abstracted microphones, spotlights, and singing lips highlighting the energetic interplay between performer and audience.

### **Spiritual Transcendence**

After her husband **John Coltrane's** passing in 1967, Alice experienced a period of mourning, self-exploration, and spiritual enlightenment. This moment of discovery, which led her to become an Swamini (a Hindu concept that refers to a female spiritual leader), Alice also birthed a new mode of transcendental music and sound that broke from the standard jazz tradition and proved to be genre defying.

**Nicole Miller**, an artist that primarily works with laser, video, and installations, creates work that transmutes light and sound to reconsider personal histories and prompt an understanding of one's own body. Miller's piece in the exhibition consists of a laser-light installation created with analog sound, which is then processed through a synthesizer. The soundwaves then interact with the mirror inside the laser, emanating light. Drawn from Coltrane's Vedic astrology chart, Miller provides a glimpse into the intimate yet enigmatic aspects of Coltrane, honoring her gifts and illuminating her spiritual journey.

In his film *Isis and Osiris* (2024), filmmaker **Ephraim Asili** reimagines Coltrane's initial encounters with the harp, a gift from her husband that was not delivered to her until shortly after his passing. Starring contemporary harpist Brandee Younger and Coltrane's original harp which was recently restored, this piece serves as a meditation on Coltrane's connection with the instrument, both as a music-making tool and as a link to her late husband.

### **Architectural Intimacy**

The archival ephemera and contemporary artworks that comprise this section are deeply rooted in Coltrane's importance to the design of physical spaces, color theory, and sacred geometry. Included in

the exhibition are several photographs depicting the Coltranes' home in Dix Hills, New York, and sketches from the early designs of the Sai Anantam Ashram in Agoura Hills, California, can be seen throughout the gallery walls, emphasizing Coltrane's attention to form and structures.

Los Angeles artist **Martine Syms** has created a new suite of photographs that capture the original furniture that was used inside of the Sai Anantam Ashram. These photographs question and honor the function of the now-defunct space and the spiritual residue that individual objects retain.

**GeoVanna Gonzalez**, whose installations are often interventions between public and private spaces, has created a functioning stage that will be activated every Sunday during the run of the exhibition through performances by different musicians. The stage features various elements and materials that draw on Coltrane's interior design and color choices, such as the stained glass and prayer rugs in the Dix Hills home.

#### **PARTICIPATING ARTISTS**

Ephraim Asili	Leslie Hewitt	Gozié Ojini
Bethany Collins	Rashid Johnson	Adee Roberson
Jamal Cyrus	Jennie C. Jones	Cauleen Smith
Steven Ellison	Jasper Marsalis	Martine Syms
Star Feliz	Devin T. Mays	Suné Woods
Nikita Gale	Nicole Miller	
GeoVanna Gonzalez	Shala Miller	

#### **CATALOGUE**

*Alice Coltrane, Monument Eternal*, is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue that includes essays by exhibition curator Erin Christovale, a conversation with Michelle and Ravi Coltrane moderated by musicologist Ashley Kahn, and a roundtable conversation with former students from the Sai Anantam Ashram. It also includes excerpts from *Monument Eternal: The Music of Alice Coltrane* by Franya J. Berkman.

#### **RELATED PROGRAMS & COLLABORATIONS**

##### **Hammer Programs and Performances**

###### **Public Opening with Flying Lotus**

Saturday, February 8, 8PM

Be among the first to see *Alice Coltrane, Monument Eternal*, with galleries open late and music in the courtyard. **Flying Lotus**—aka Alice Coltrane's grandnephew **Steven Ellison**, whose work is featured in the exhibition—will entertain guests in the courtyard with a special set celebrating the exhibition. Food and drink will be available for purchase all night. Hammer members receive priority entry.

### **Turiya Rising Performance Series**

Sundays, 5PM, February 16–May 4

Step into the *Alice Coltrane* galleries every Sunday for special performances on a stage designed for the exhibition by artist **GeoVanna Gonzalez**. Each performance is presented in celebration of Coltrane’s legacy as a musical innovator and as an ode to her Sunday services at the Sai Anantam Ashram. Artist lineup includes **Jeff Parker**, **Mary Lattimore**, and others to be announced. Limited seating in gallery will be available on a first come, first served basis. Programmed by Ross Chait and Erin Christovale.

### **Coltrane on Coltrane: An Oral History**

Tuesday, February 18, 7:30PM

Vocalist **Michelle Coltrane** (daughter of Alice Coltrane) and harpist **Brandee Younger** come together for a special program that is part conversation, part performance. The event features oral histories and biographical stories about Alice Coltrane interwoven with performances by Younger that bring the stories to life.

## **Off-Site Performances & Events**

### ***Alice Coltrane, Monument Eternal* Catalog Launch Event**

Dover Street Market Los Angeles

Saturday, February 15, 3PM

Celebrate the release of the *Alice Coltrane, Monument Eternal* exhibition catalog during this special event at Dover Street Market, located in the Arts District in downtown Los Angeles, featuring a panel discussion with exhibition curator **Erin Christovale** and **Michelle Coltrane**, plus a special musical performance.

## **Collaborations**

### **NTS Radio: Monument Eternal: An Alice Coltrane Special**

Global music platform NTS will host a 12-hour broadcast dedicated to Alice Coltrane’s music and legacy, featuring *Alice Coltrane, Monument Eternal* curators and artists along with NTS residents and special guests closely connected to Coltrane. The live broadcast will take place on Sunday, February 9th, and will be available afterward on the NTS website: **nts.live**.

### **Criterion Channel: Eternity’s Pillar**

In conjunction with the exhibition, streaming platform the Criterion Channel will feature four episodes of Alice Coltrane’s 1980s public access television show, *Eternity’s Pillar*—available for the first time since their original broadcast. More info: **critterionchannel.com**.

## **CREDITS**

*Alice Coltrane, Monument Eternal* is organized by Erin Christovale, curator, with Nyah Ginwright, curatorial assistant.

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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 Made in L.A. biennial, 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. Hours: Tuesday–Thursday & Saturday–Sunday 11 a.m.–6 p.m.; Friday 11 a.m.–8 p.m. Closed Mondays and national holidays. Hammer Museum, 10899 Wilshire Boulevard at Westwood, Los Angeles. Onsite parking is \$8 for the first 3 hours (maximum \$22), or \$8 flat rate after 5 p.m. Valet parking is available at the Lindbrook Drive entrance for \$15. Visit [hammer.ucla.edu](http://hammer.ucla.edu) for details or call 310-443-7000.

Free Admission at the Hammer Museum is courtesy of Marcy Carsey, the Erika J Glazer Family Foundation, and the Anthony & Jeanne Pritzker Family Foundation.