

In Conversation

Where LAC's history meets its next chapter

Handling & Physical Care

- Permanent collection pieces are moved, unframed, or rehung only by LAC staff or designated volunteers — never by the responding artist directly. Work from photos and in-person viewing, not by handling the piece yourself.
- Each piece is condition-checked and photographed before and after the show. Several works in the collection are 70+ years old; some already show wear, so this protects both the piece and the artist working near it.

Presentation Parity

- The historic piece and the new response receive equal visual weight — comparable framing/mounting quality and similarly sized labels. This is a dialogue between equals, not a backdrop for new work.
- Labels follow a consistent format across all pairs: for the original, artist name, dates, title, medium, date, and a line of provenance; for the new work, artist name and a line on what drew them to the piece.

Respecting the Work Itself

- New work is a genuine dialogue with the original — not a parody or a correction of it. Artists are encouraged to interpret freely, but with respect for the piece and the artist who made it.
- Where a donor's family is still local, LAC will offer a courtesy heads-up that their relative's work is being featured — good will, and often a source of additional history.

Sign-Off

- Final say on which permanent collection pieces are included rests with LAC's collections contact. Any piece with an unresolved question — attribution, condition, or fit with the exhibition concept — is confirmed with them before it's offered to artists.