

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Lyn Winter  
Tel 213/633-5390  
[lwinter@moca.org](mailto:lwinter@moca.org)

Jessica Youn  
Tel 213/633-5322  
[jyoun@moca.org](mailto:jyoun@moca.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 3, 2009

**MOCA'S PERMANENT COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTED  
IN TWO NEW EXHIBITIONS AT MOCA GRAND AVENUE**

*From the Permanent Collection: Robert Frank's "The Americans"*  
**June 14–October 19, 2009**  
MOCA Grand Avenue

*Collecting History: Highlighting Recent Acquisitions*  
**July 12–October 19, 2009**  
MOCA Grand Avenue



Öyvind Fahlström, *Africa Banner*, 1966, variable banner, silkscreen on felt and polyester, thread, and Velcro, 72 x 70 in., The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, purchased with funds provided by the Acquisition and Collection Committee, © 2009 Sharon Avery-Fahlström, featured in *Collecting History: Highlighting Recent Acquisitions*



Jutta Koether, *Antibody V (Semi-Popular Painting)*, 1993, oil on canvas, 95 1/2 x 79 3/8 x 1 1/2 in., The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, purchased with funds provided by the Acquisition and Collection Committee, featured in *Collecting History: Highlighting Recent Acquisitions*

**Los Angeles**—The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (MOCA), continues to highlight its outstanding permanent collection with two new exhibitions at its MOCA Grand Avenue location. *From the Permanent Collection: Robert Frank's "The Americans"*, a rare showing of the original portfolio of images comprising the landmark book, is on view June 14 to October 19, 2009. *Collecting History: Highlighting Recent Acquisitions*, focusing on works added to the collection during the past five years, will be on view July 12 to October 19, 2009. The two shows join *A Changing Ratio: Painting and Sculpture from the Collection*, which opened at MOCA Grand Avenue on March 1 and has been extended to September 28, 2009.

- more -

## FROM THE PERMANENT COLLECTION: ROBERT FRANK'S "THE AMERICANS"

In 1955, the Swiss-born photographer Robert Frank won a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation grant to photograph American people and places. For two years, Frank traveled by car throughout the United States, amassing over 20,000 negatives. The edited portfolio of 83 photographs was published in book form as *Les Américains* by Robert Delpire in France in 1958, and as *The Americans* in 1959 by Grove Press in New York. The book has since become a major landmark in the history of photography. In this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of its publication, MOCA presents a rare showing of the complete set of photographs comprising *The Americans*, in the order carefully devised by Frank for the book. MOCA's portfolio, the only complete set on the West Coast, was purchased in 1995 with funds provided by Ralph M. Parsons Foundation. *From the Permanent Collection: Robert Frank's "The Americans"* was initiated by Rebecca Morse and Corrina Peipon.

Frank's photographs were created with a hand-held Leica camera, often using a wide-angle lens, resulting in compositions that appear unplanned, spontaneous, and are ultimately revealing. The original American edition of the book included an introduction by Jack Kerouac, the Beat writer most famous for his novel *On the Road*. Describing the emotional scope of Frank's portfolio, Kerouac wrote: "After seeing these pictures you end up finally not knowing whether a jukebox is sadder than a coffin."

*From the Permanent Collection: Robert Frank's "The Americans"* is made possible by endowment support from The Max Yavno Fund.

## COLLECTING HISTORY: HIGHLIGHTING RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Inspired by the remarkable growth of the museum's holdings through gifts and purchases over the past decade, *Collecting History: Highlighting Recent Acquisitions* surveys recent acquisitions to MOCA's world-renowned permanent collection, with a particular focus on the last five years. While many of the works on view are being exhibited by the museum for the first time, the selection also features works by artists included in the acclaimed MOCA exhibitions *A Minimal Future? Art as Object 1958–1968* (2004), *Poetics of the Handmade* (2007), and *WACK! Art and the Feminist Revolution* (2007), as well as the museum's MOCA Focus series. *Collecting History* is organized by MOCA Senior Curator Ann Goldstein and MOCA Associate Curator Bennett Simpson.

MOCA's recent collecting is notable for its breadth and range. *Collecting History* assembles significant works by historical, mid-career, and emerging artists working locally, nationally, and internationally, including Eduardo Abaroa, John Altoon, Jennifer Bornstein, Stanley Brouwn, Tony Conrad, Hanne Darboven, Roe Ethridge, VALIE EXPORT, Öyvind Fahlström, Hans Haacke, Rachel Harrison, Robert Huot, Mike Kelley, Jutta Koether, Suzanne Lacy, Lisa Lapinski, Allan McCollum, Matt Mullican, Gary Simmons, Cosima von Bonin, Marnie Weber, Ai Weiwei, William Wegman, and Lawrence Weiner, among many others. The exhibition draws from works acquired through purchases and gifts, including significant donations from Michael Asher, Blake Byrne, Mandy and Cliff Einstein, Alan Hergott and Curt Shepard, Mike Kelley, Alan Power, and The Dorothy and Herbert Vogel Collection: Fifty Works for Fifty States, among many other donors.

- more -

## RELATED PROGRAMS

### FIRST SUNDAYS ARE FOR FAMILIES!

These hands-on, artist-led workshops are **FREE** for families with children ages five and up. **Teens can drop in any time from 1–3:30pm**, take a guided tour, and participate in artist-led workshops with their friends. No reservations required.

**INFO** 213/621-1765 or [fflores@moca.org](mailto:fflores@moca.org)

#### SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 1–3:30pm—MOCA Grand Avenue

Long before Twitter and Facebook, many artists lived in the same neighborhoods, frequented the same restaurants, formed friendships with each other, and influenced one another's art. Join us for a guided tour of MOCA's current exhibition, *A Changing Ratio: Painting and Sculpture from the Collection*, which features many mid- to late-20th century masterworks by artists living and working in New York.

Participants will then create a collective large-scale map of Los Angeles that highlights and connects their own communities. This workshop is designed and led by artist **Vincent Ramos**.

#### SUNDAY, JULY 5, 1–3:30pm—MOCA Grand Avenue

When you think of "America," what is the first image that comes to mind? For two years, Swiss-born photographer Robert Frank traveled by car throughout the United States and took more than 20,000 photographs, 83 which he carefully selected and arranged for his landmark 1959 book, *The Americans*. Take a guided tour of *From the Permanent Collection: Robert Frank's "The Americans"*, MOCA's presentation of Frank's original portfolio. Then, meet artist **Patrick Miller**, who will lead a photography project inspired by *The Americans*.

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 1–3:30pm—MOCA Grand Avenue

Why do museums collect art? Join us for a tour of *Collecting History: Highlighting Recent Acquisitions*, an exhibition showcasing artworks recently acquired by MOCA for its permanent collection. Families will explore the purpose and meaning of art collections and make personal connections with the works in the show. After the tour, meet artist **Sue Huang**, who will introduce a hands-on project that explores the idea of collecting.

First Sundays are For Families is presented by Bank of America. Generous support is provided by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission.

## SCREENINGS

In conjunction with the exhibition *From the Permanent Collection: Robert Frank's "The Americans"*, MOCA collaborates with Cinefamily and Los Angeles Filmforum to present four evenings of films by and about the renowned Swiss-born photographer. This series is curated by Adam Hyman.

### Portraits of Robert Frank

#### SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 3pm—MOCA Grand Avenue, Ahmanson Auditorium

MOCA presents an afternoon of films examining the life and career of legendary photographer Robert Frank. In *An American Journey* (2009, color, 58 min.), French director Philippe Séclier retraces the path followed by legendary photographer Robert Frank when he created his seminal photographic portfolio, *The Americans*. In an effort to examine the impact of Frank's images, Séclier travels 15,000 miles through the various communities of America, moving between past and present. *Conversations in Vermont* (1969, b/w, 26 min.), directed by Frank and photographed by Ralph Gibson, is Frank's first overtly autobiographical film. In it, he interviews his two children, Pablo and Andrea, about their experiences growing up with artists as parents. Originally planned as a study of indigenous American music, *About Me: A Musical* (1971, b/w, 35 min.) evolved instead into a film about its author. The actress Lynn Reyner plays Frank as he examines his life and questions his contributions as a photographer.

**INFO** 213/621-1745 or [education@moca.org](mailto:education@moca.org)

**FREE** with museum admission

- more -

**Early Films by Robert Frank**

**SATURDAY, JULY 18, 7:30pm**

**Cinefamily at Silent Movie Theatre, 611 North Fairfax Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90036**

MOCA and Cinefamily present an evening of early films by Robert Frank. *Pull My Daisy* (1959, b/w, 28 min.), directed by Frank and Alfred Leslie from a script by Jack Kerouac, is a classic work of avant-garde cinema, revolving around a group of poets (Allen Ginsberg, Peter Orlovsky, and Gregory Corso) who question a bishop (Richard Bellamy) and his mother (Alice Neel) about art, poetry, and everyday life. *Me and My Brother* (1965-68, re-edited 1997, b/w and color, 91 min.), Frank's first feature-length film, blends documentary footage of Ginsberg and Orlovsky with fictional constructs as it explores the inner and outer worlds of Julius Orlovsky, a catatonic who silently observes the world around him. The film was re-edited in 1997 to mark Ginsberg's passing.

**INFO** [cinefamily.org](http://cinefamily.org)

**TICKETS** \$12 general admission

**Films By and About Robert Frank**

**SUNDAY, JULY 19, 7:30pm**

**Egyptian Theatre, 6712 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, CA 90028**

MOCA and Los Angeles Filmforum present a selection of films by Robert Frank. *Fire in the East: A Portrait of Robert Frank* (1986, color, 28 min.) looks at four decades of Frank's life and career and includes interviews with such collaborators as Allen Ginsberg, Emile de Antonio, Jonas Mekas, and Rudy Wurlitzer. *O. K. End Here* (1963, b/w, 30 min.), Frank's portrait of a New York City couple spending an intimate Sunday together, was honored with the grand prize at the 1963 Bergamo Film Festival. *Flamingo* (1997, 7 min.) is Frank's video diary of the construction of a new foundation for his house in a remote area of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. In *Sanyu* (1999, 27 min.), Frank memorializes his friend Sanyu (1901–1964), an important Chinese artist who died in anonymity in Paris.

**INFO** [lafilmforum.wordpress.com](http://lafilmforum.wordpress.com)

**TICKETS** \$10 general; \$6 seniors/students; free to Filmforum members

**Recent Films by Robert Frank**

**SUNDAY, JULY 26, 7:30pm**

**Egyptian Theatre, 6712 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, CA 90028**

MOCA and Los Angeles Filmforum present a selection of Robert Frank's newest films, some never screened in Los Angeles. *The Present* (1996, 24 min.) is a thoughtful self-portrait in which Frank contemplates his relationships, his daughter's death, his son's mental illness, and his own work. In *I Remember* (1998, color, 5 min.), Frank recreates his visit to the home of Alfred Stieglitz, with wife June Leaf playing Georgia O'Keeffe, artist Jerome Sother playing Frank, and Frank himself in the role of Stieglitz. *Paper Route* (2002, 23 min.) finds Frank accompanying Robert MacMillan on his early-morning paper route in rural Nova Scotia, creating a video portrait of the lives of ordinary people. *True Story* (2004, color and b/w, 26 min.), returns to familiar themes of memory and loss, as the artist candidly reflects on his work, his wife's artwork, and letters written by his son, Pablo, who died in 1994.

**INFO** [lafilmforum.wordpress.com](http://lafilmforum.wordpress.com)

**TICKETS** \$10 general; \$6 seniors/students; free to Filmforum members

###

**MOCA—Celebrating 30 Years as the Nation's Leading Contemporary Art Museum**

Founded in 1979, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (MOCA), has achieved astonishing growth in its brief history—with three Los Angeles locations of architectural renown; more than 17,000 members; a permanent collection of nearly 6,000 works international in scope and among the finest in the nation; hallmark education programs that are widely emulated; award-winning publications that present original scholarship; and groundbreaking monographic, touring, and thematic exhibitions of international repute that survey the art of our time. MOCA's mission is to be the defining museum of contemporary art. MOCA is a private not-for-profit institution supported by its members, corporate and foundation support, government grants, and admission revenues. MOCA Grand Avenue is open 11am to 5pm on Monday and Friday; 11am to 8pm on Thursday; 11am to 6pm on Saturday and Sunday; and closed on Tuesday and Wednesday. General admission is \$10 for adults; \$5 for students with I.D. and seniors (65+); and free for MOCA members, children under 12, and everyone on Thursdays from 5pm to 8pm, courtesy of Wells Fargo. MOCA Pacific Design Center is open 11am to 5pm Tuesday through Friday; 11am to 6pm on Saturday and Sunday; and closed on Monday. Admission to MOCA Pacific Design Center is always free. The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA is open whenever there are appropriate exhibitions for that space. For 24-hour information on current exhibitions, education programs, and special events, call 213/626-6222 or access MOCA online at [moca.org](http://moca.org).