



THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

**MOCA PRESENTS
GERHARD RICHTER: PAINTING AFTER ALL**

**August 15, 2020–January 18, 2021
MOCA Grand Avenue**



LOS ANGELES—The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) presents *Gerhard Richter: Painting After All* at its Grand Avenue location, opening August 15, 2020. The first ever survey of Richter's work to appear in Los Angeles, and the first major exhibition in the United States in nearly twenty years, the exhibition will span the artist's six decade-long exploration of the material, conceptual, and historical implications of painting through the dual means of representation and abstraction. This is a special ticketed exhibition. Special exhibitions at MOCA are \$18 for adults; \$10 for students with I.D. and seniors (+65); and free for children under 12 and jurors with I.D. Special exhibitions are **free** every Thursday from 5pm to 8pm and MOCA members always receive free admission to special exhibitions. Tickets go on sale at moca.org on July 14, 2020.

Comprising over 100 works including paintings, glass sculptures, prints, and photographs, the exhibition considers the entire span of the prolific career of a figure widely considered one of the greatest artists of our time. It will present works from different periods that bring into focus his specific and enduring interest in how paintings are conceived, produced, and situated within a historical lineage. Ranging from photo-based images to nonobjective compositions, Richter has

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tested the ability of art to reckon with personal history, collective memory, and identity, particularly in the context of post-World War II German society, and its ability to confront the aesthetic legacies of Euro-American modernisms through experimentation with painterly traditions and new modes of producing images.

Gerhard Richter: Painting After All will feature several iconic works such as *Uncle Rudi* (1965), *Betty* (1977), and *September* (2005), and will also highlight many lesser-known works such as his early series *Elbe* (1957). Galleries devoted to cycles including the twelve paintings entitled *Forest* (1995), will provide an immersive experience. Finally, two new glass works *Grey Mirrors (4 Parts)* (2018) and *House of Cards (5 Panes)* (2020) will be debuted in the exhibition.

This exhibition will also highlight two important recent series by the artist: *Birkenau* (2014) and *Cage* (2006), both of which will be exhibited in the United States for the first time. Richter's encounter with the only known photographs taken by prisoners inside the Nazi concentration camp led to the creation of the *Birkenau* series. The four paintings speak to Richter's belief in painting as a powerful means to address the complex and often-difficult legacies of both personal and civic history. The six *Cage* paintings are key to understanding his lifelong preoccupation with abstraction through a different lens. In homage to the American composer and philosopher John Cage, whose innovative compositional techniques used chance as a way to "imitate nature," Richter's meticulous multi-layered paintings are based on similar principles of calculated incidents.

The exhibition was organized by The Metropolitan Museum of Art, in collaboration with The Museum of Contemporary Art.

Gerhard Richter: Painting After All is co-curated by Sheena Wagstaff, Leonard A. Lauder Chairman, Modern and Contemporary Art at The Met and Benjamin H.D. Buchloh, Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Modern Art in the Department of History of Art and Architecture at Harvard University, with Brinda Kumar, Assistant Curator, Modern and Contemporary Art at The Met. The presentation at MOCA is organized by MOCA Senior Curator Bennett Simpson and Assistant Curator Rebecca Lowery.

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue featuring essays by the curators and other scholars including Briony Fer, Hal Foster, Peter Geimer and André Rottmann.

Gerhard Richter: Painting After All is organized by The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. The Los Angeles presentation is coordinated by Bennett Simpson, Senior Curator and Administrative Department Head, and Rebecca Lowery, Assistant Curator, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles.

This exhibition is made possible by lead support from Mary Klaus Martin and David C. Martin.

Additional lead support is provided by Maurice Marciano.

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Exhibitions at MOCA are supported by the MOCA Fund for Exhibitions.

Image credit: Gerhard Richter, *Ice*, 1981, oil on canvas, 27 9/16 × 39 3/8 in. (70 × 100 cm). Collection of Ruth McLoughlin, Monaco, © Gerhard Richter 2019.

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About MOCA: Founded in 1979, MOCA is the defining museum of contemporary art. In a relatively short period of time, MOCA has achieved astonishing growth; a world-class permanent collection of more than 7,000 objects, international in scope and among the finest in the world; hallmark education programs that are widely-emulated; award-winning publications that present original scholarship; groundbreaking monographic, touring, and thematic exhibitions of international repute that survey the art of our time; and cutting-edge engagement with modes of new media production. MOCA is a not-for-profit institution that relies on a variety of funding sources for its activities.

Hours: MOCA Grand Avenue (located at 250 South Grand Avenue in Downtown Los Angeles) is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11am to 6pm; Thursday from 11am to 8pm; Saturday and Sunday from 11am to 5pm; and closed on Tuesday. The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA (located at 152 North Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012) has the same hours as MOCA Grand Avenue during exhibitions. Please call ahead or go to moca.org for the exhibition schedule for The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA. The MOCA Store at MOCA Grand Avenue (located at 250 South Grand Avenue) is open Monday through Wednesday and Friday from 10:30am to 5:30pm; Thursday from 10:30am to 8:30pm; and Saturday and Sunday from 10:30am to 6:30pm.

Museum Admission: General admission to MOCA is free. Special exhibitions at MOCA are \$18 for adults; \$10 for students with I.D. and seniors (+65); and free for children under 12 and jurors with I.D. Special exhibitions are free every Thursday from 5pm to 8pm. MOCA members always receive free admission to special exhibitions.

More Information: For 24-hour information on current exhibitions, education programs, and special events, call 213/626-6222 or access MOCA online at moca.org.

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