



THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

**MOCA PRESENTS
*SIMONE FORTI***

**September 27, 2020–December 7, 2020
MOCA Grand Avenue**



LOS ANGELES—The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) presents *Simone Forti*, the first major exhibition on the West Coast to consider and explore the monumental career of this visionary artist, dancer, choreographer, and writer. Opening this fall at MOCA's Grand Avenue location, the exhibition will present approximately forty works including a number of weekly live performances of three works from her seminal series of *Dance Constructions*. Simple, direct, physical interactions with structures utilizing wood and ropes, these works became pivotal to the development of post-modern dance and are central to Forti's legacy.

Additionally, a selection of works on paper, videos, sculpture, performance ephemera and documentation will highlight key moments from Simone Forti's career. Forti's artistic practice has spanned six decades and reframed the dialogue between visual art and contemporary dance, significantly influencing younger generations of artists like Gerard & Kelly and Jérôme Bel. The exhibition is curated by MOCA Director of Education and Senior Curator of Programs Amanda Hunt with the assistance of MOCA Curatorial Assistant Kimberly Kitada.

Born in Florence, Italy in 1935, Forti emigrated with her family to Los Angeles in 1938. In 1955 she began dancing with Anna Halprin, who was doing pioneering work in dance improvisation. After studying and performing with Halprin in the San Francisco Bay area for four years, Forti moved to New York where she studied composition at the Merce Cunningham Studio with educator & musicologist Robert Dunn. In these classes, which focused on the work of John Cage, she met and began working informally with choreographers including Trisha Brown, Yvonne Rainer, and Steve Paxton. In the spring of 1961, Forti presented a full evening of pieces she called *Dance Constructions* at Yoko Ono's loft studio. These nine pieces proved to be influential in both the fields of dance and visual arts. Simone Forti's radical choreography shares conceptual affinities with Minimalist art practices of the early 1960's. Though her influence on post-modern dance has been widely acknowledged, her contributions to Minimalism and Conceptualism are often overlooked. Over the years Forti returned to improvisation, including extensive collaborations with musicians like Charlemagne Palestine and Peter Van Riper. Since the early 1980s she has been practicing a form wherein movement and words spontaneously weave together. Taking the news as her subject matter, Forti calls these performances *News Animations* and this exhibition will include video documentation of these pieces.

Forti has appeared in venues including The Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles; The Louvre Museum, Paris; and Danspace, New York. She has had solo exhibitions at the Kunstmuseum in Bonn, Germany as well as her first major retrospective at the Museum der Moderne, Salzburg, Austria in 2014. Forti's artwork is in collections of The Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Stedelijk Museum, Generali Foundation, and The Whitney Museum of American Art. Forti has received various awards including a Guggenheim Fellowship in Dance in 2005 and a Yoko Ono Lennon Courage Award for the Arts in 2011. She is a significant figure in the Los Angeles dance community, pursuing her work at California Institute of the Arts from 1970–1972 and teaching in UCLA's Department of World Arts and Cultures from 1997–2014. Recent exhibitions include *Vicino al Cuore (Close to the Heart)* at ICA Milano (2019-2020) and an 8-month residency with movement workshops at the Hammer, Los Angeles.

Simone Forti is organized by Amanda Hunt, Director of Education and Senior Curator of Programs, with Kimberly Kitada, Curatorial Assistant, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles.

Image caption: Simone Forti, *Phoenix, Circling IIII, Huddle, Garden, Fountain Huddle, Projects: Performance, Summergarden series*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY, August 18-19, 1978. Performed by Simone Forti, Peter Van Riper (music) and others. Photo by Peter Moore, © (1978) Barbara Moore, all rights of reproduction reserved.

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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 11 am to 6 pm; Thursday from 11 am to 8 pm; Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm; 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 10:30 am to 5:30 pm; Thursday from 10:30 am to 8:30 pm; and Saturday and Sunday from 10:30 am to 6:30 pm.

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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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