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## **MEDIA ALERT**

August 13, 2025

### **MOCA and The Brick present MONUMENTS**

On view at The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA and The Brick  
October 23, 2025 - April 12, 2026

**LOS ANGELES**— Co-organized and co-presented by The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) and The Brick, **MONUMENTS** marks the recent wave of monument removals as a historic moment. The exhibition reflects on the histories and legacies of post-Civil War America as they continue to resonate today, bringing together a selection of decommissioned monuments, many of which are Confederate, with contemporary artworks borrowed and newly created for the occasion. Removed from their original outdoor public context, the monuments in the exhibition will be shown in their varying states of transformation, from unmarred to heavily vandalized.

Co-curated by Hamza Walker, Director of The Brick; Bennett Simpson, Senior Curator at MOCA; and Kara Walker, artist; with Hannah Burstein, Curatorial Associate at The Brick; and Paula Kroll, Curatorial Assistant at MOCA, **MONUMENTS** considers the ways public monuments have shaped national identity, historical memory, and current events.

Following the racially motivated mass shooting at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC (2015) and the deadly 'Unite the Right' rally organized by white nationalists in Charlottesville, VA (2017), alongside Bree Newsome's powerful removal of the Confederate flag at the South Carolina Statehouse (2015), the United States witnessed the decommissioning of nearly 200 monuments. These removals prompted a national debate that remains ongoing. **MONUMENTS** aims to historicize these discussions in our current moment and provide a space for crucial discourse and active engagements about challenging topics.

**MONUMENTS** features newly commissioned artworks by contemporary artists Bethany Collins, Abigail Deville, Karon Davis, Stan Douglas, Kahlil Robert Irving, Cauleen Smith, Kevin Jerome Everson, Walter Price, Monument Lab, Davóne Tines and Julie Dash, and Kara Walker. Additional artworks by Leonardo Drew, Torkwase Dyson, Nona Faustine, Jon Henry, Hugh Mangum, Martin Puryear, Andres Serrano, and Hank Willis Thomas, are borrowed from private collectors and institutions.


The exhibition presents decommissioned monuments borrowed from the City of Baltimore, Maryland; the City of New Orleans, Louisiana; the City of Montgomery, Alabama; The Jefferson School for African American Heritage, Charlottesville, Virginia; the Black History Museum & Cultural Center of Virginia, Richmond; the Valentine, Richmond, Virginia; and The Daniels Family Charitable Foundation, Raleigh, North Carolina. By juxtaposing these objects with contemporary works, the exhibition expands the context in which they are understood and highlights the gaps and omissions in popular narratives of American history.

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MONUMENTS is on view from October 23, 2025 to April 12, 2026 simultaneously at The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA and The Brick. The exhibition will be accompanied by a scholarly publication and a robust slate of public and educational programming.

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## SUPPORT

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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 almost 8,000 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.

## ABOUT THE BRICK

The Brick is a nonprofit visual art space that promotes developments in contemporary culture through



exhibitions, publications, and public programs. We believe that contemporary art is a means of understanding key issues of our time with all their inherent contradictions. Contemporary art assumes many forms. Rather than provide answers, it raises questions. Through a range of offerings, The Brick contextualizes contemporary art both socially and art historically. Our programs are free and designed to be accessible to the general public.

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