Press Release

The Brooklyn Museum Announces Advance Schedule of Exhibitions through January 2020

The Brooklyn Museum is pleased to announce our advance schedule of exhibitions through January 2020, including a retrospective featuring the futurist fashion of Pierre Cardin; a solo presentation of work by internationally recognized artist JR; and the reinstallation of the Museum’s Arts of Japan and China collections. In addition, and in collaboration with the Château de Malmaison, France, in January 2020 the iconic Kehinde Wiley painting from the Brooklyn Museum’s collection—Napoleon Leading the Army over the Alps (2005)—will be on view in dialogue with its early nineteenth-century source painting, Jacques-Louis David’s Napoleon Crossing the Alps (1800–1801).

Advance Schedule of Exhibitions:

Pierre Cardin: Future Fashion
July 20, 2019–January 5, 2020
Morris A. and Meyer Schapiro Wing and Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Gallery, 5th Floor

The retrospective exhibition Pierre Cardin: Future Fashion traces the legendary career of one of the fashion world’s most innovative designers, one whose futuristic designs and trailblazing efforts to democratize high fashion for the masses pushed the boundaries of the industry for more than seven decades. Featuring over 170 objects that date from the 1950s to the present, the exhibition includes haute couture and ready-to-wear garments, accessories, photographs, film, and other materials drawn primarily from the Pierre Cardin archive. Highlights range across rare designs in luxury fabrics from the 1950s; a large grouping from the landmark 1964 “Cosmocorps” collection; creations that incorporate vinyls, plastics, and the self-named “Cardine” synthetic fabric; signature unisex ensembles featuring full knit bodysuits with layered skirts, vests, bibs, and jewelry; iconic broad-shouldered jackets from the 1980s based on Japanese origami, Chinese architecture, and American football uniforms; “illuminated” jumpsuits and dresses; and an extensive overview of Cardin’s recently designed couture menswear and eveningwear. The exhibition reveals how the designer’s bold, futuristic aesthetic had a pervasive influence not only on fashion, but on other forms of design that extended beyond clothing to furniture, industrial design, and more.

Pierre Cardin: Future Fashion is curated and designed by Matthew Yokobosky, Senior Curator of Fashion and Material Culture, Brooklyn Museum. Leadership support for this exhibition is provided by Chargeurs.
The Brooklyn Museum presents JR: Chronicles, the French artist’s largest solo museum exhibition to date. The presentation covers nearly 20,000 square feet of the Museum’s Great Hall and traces JR’s artistic evolution since 2001, focusing on his commitment to community and civic discourse through the use of large-scale media such as news and advertising as well as architectural interventions. Working at the intersections of photography, social practice, and street art, JR’s participatory projects have fostered collaborations and conversations around the globe. The exhibition centers on The Chronicles of New York City, a new monumental mural incorporating the portraits and stories of over one thousand New Yorkers. The immersive installation also features JR’s most well-known works across photography, installation, film, and video from the past fifteen years, including his first major collaborative project, Portrait of a Generation (2004–6); Face 2 Face (2007), which features giant portrait diptychs of Israelis and Palestinians, face to face, in eight Palestinian and Israeli cities; Women Are Heroes (2008–9), featuring images of the eyes of women gazing back at their communities in numerous countries, including Brazil, India, and Kenya; the global participatory art project Inside Out (2011–ongoing); and The Gun Chronicles: A Story of America (2018), a video mural that gives a face to the full and complex spectrum of views on guns in the United States.

JR: Chronicles is curated by Sharon Matt Atkins, Director of Curatorial Affairs, and Drew Sawyer, Phillip Leonian and Edith Rosenbaum Leonian Curator, Photography, Brooklyn Museum.

Arts of China
Opens October 25, 2019
Arts of Asia and the Middle East, 2nd Floor

The Brooklyn Museum’s comprehensive collection of Chinese art spans more than five thousand years of Chinese artistic accomplishment, and boasts a diversity of art forms including jades, bronzes, lacquer, sculpture, painting, and calligraphy. This fall, the Museum opens newly reinstalled galleries for its renowned Arts of China collection, featuring recent acquisitions, new commissions, and rarely seen historical treasures. The Brooklyn Museum’s large collection of cloisonné enamels, many from the Chinese imperial collection, are featured, along with masterpieces of bronze such as a Shang dynasty ritual vessel (gong) and a Han dynasty goose. Also on view are a selection of ceramics, including the Museum’s world-famous Yuan dynasty Wine Jar with Fish and Aquatic Plants, widely acknowledged to be one of the finest blue-and-white porcelains in the Western hemisphere. Since 2014, the Brooklyn Museum has worked to expand its holdings of contemporary painting and sculpture by Chinese artists, culminating in the acquisition of over fifty works from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, including new commissions that spark dialogue with objects from the Museum’s historical collection. Highlights include experimental ink
This fall, the Brooklyn Museum unveils a new gallery for its Arts of Japan collection following a multiyear renovation. In this inaugural installation, seventy objects from the Museum’s collection illustrate the sophistication of Japanese art-making technologies and explore the dialogue between tradition and innovation in Japan. Featuring masterworks of Buddhist sculpture, vivid Ukiyo-e prints, exquisite screen paintings, and cutting-edge contemporary ceramics, the gallery highlights two thousand years of artistic achievement. In acknowledgement of the cultural diversity within the region, the installation also includes highlights from the Museum’s important collection of artifacts from the Ainu people of northern Japan, material that is rarely shown in an art museum setting.

One: Xu Bing
October 25, 2019–April 26, 2020
Focus Gallery, 2nd Floor

Focusing on a major new gift to the Brooklyn Museum’s world-renowned collection of Chinese art, One: Xu Bing highlights the painting Square Word Calligraphy: Crossing Brooklyn Ferry, Walt Whitman (2018). Created specifically for the Brooklyn Museum in consultation with curator Susan L. Beningson, this painting by one of China’s most important living artists celebrates Xu Bing’s close relationship with Brooklyn, where he lived in the 1990s and still has a studio today. Square Word Calligraphy: Crossing Brooklyn Ferry, Walt Whitman pays homage to Walt Whitman, the famous American poet, who served as an early librarian at the Brooklyn Apprentices’ Library Association (the Brooklyn Museum’s predecessor). His now-iconic poem “Crossing Brooklyn Ferry” is part of his collection Leaves of Grass and celebrates the idea that all of us are united in our shared human experience. 2019 marks Whitman’s 200th birthday, and this exhibition includes material from the Brooklyn Museum Archives to celebrate his relationship to the Museum.
Xu Bing (b. 1955) developed Square Word Calligraphy as a new way of rendering the English language after he came to New York in the early 1990s. The hybrid calligraphy incorporates English words in rectangular arrangements that resemble Chinese characters. This interplay between form and language reflects Xu Bing’s experience in New York, where he lived between two cultures.

One: Xu Bing is curated by Susan L. Beningson, Assistant Curator, Asian Art, Brooklyn Museum.

Jacques-Louis David Meets Kehinde Wiley
January 24–May 10, 2020
Morris A. and Meyer Schapiro Wing, 4th Floor

Jacques-Louis David Meets Kehinde Wiley brings an iconic painting from the Brooklyn Museum’s collection—Kehinde Wiley’s Napoleon Leading the Army over the Alps (2005)—into dialogue with its early nineteenth-century source painting, Jacques-Louis David’s Napoleon Crossing the Alps (1800–1801). The two paintings, displayed together for the very first time, are on view in consecutive exhibitions at the Château de Malmaison from October 9, 2019, to January 6, 2020, and at the Brooklyn Museum from January 24 to May 10, 2020. The exhibition questions how ideas of race, masculinity, representation, power, heroics, and agency play out within the realm of portraiture. The presentation at the Brooklyn Museum marks the first display of David’s painting in New York, and Wiley helps highlight this momentous occasion by consulting on the exhibition design. Video also accompanies the project, incorporating Wiley’s perspectives on how the Western canon, French portrait tradition, and legacies of colonialism influence his own practice. The exhibition represents an intimate conversation between two key artists of the nineteenth and twenty-first centuries and illuminates how images construct history, convey notions of power and leadership, and monumentalize figures in the form of aggrandizing icons.

The exhibition is organized by the Brooklyn Museum and Musée national des châteaux de Malmaison and Bois-Préau. The Brooklyn presentation is curated by Lisa Small, Senior Curator, European Art, and Eugenie Tsai, John and Barbara Vogelstein Senior Curator, Contemporary Art, Brooklyn Museum.

Illustrated, from top:


*Head of Guardian.* Japan. Kamakura period (1185–1333), 13th century. Hinoki wood with polychrome, inlaid rock crystal eyes, filigree metal crown, 22 1/16 x 10 1/4 x 13 15/16 in. (56 x 26 x 35.4 cm). Brooklyn Museum, Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Alastair B. Martin, the Guennol Collection, 86.21. (Photo: Brooklyn Museum)


Jacques-Louis David (French, 1748–1825). *Napoleon Crossing the Alps (Bonaparte franchissant le Grand-Saint-Bernard)*, 1801. Oil on canvas, 102 1/3 x 87 in. (261 x 221 cm). Collection of Château de Malmaison. (Photo: Courtesy RMN-GP)