

# THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

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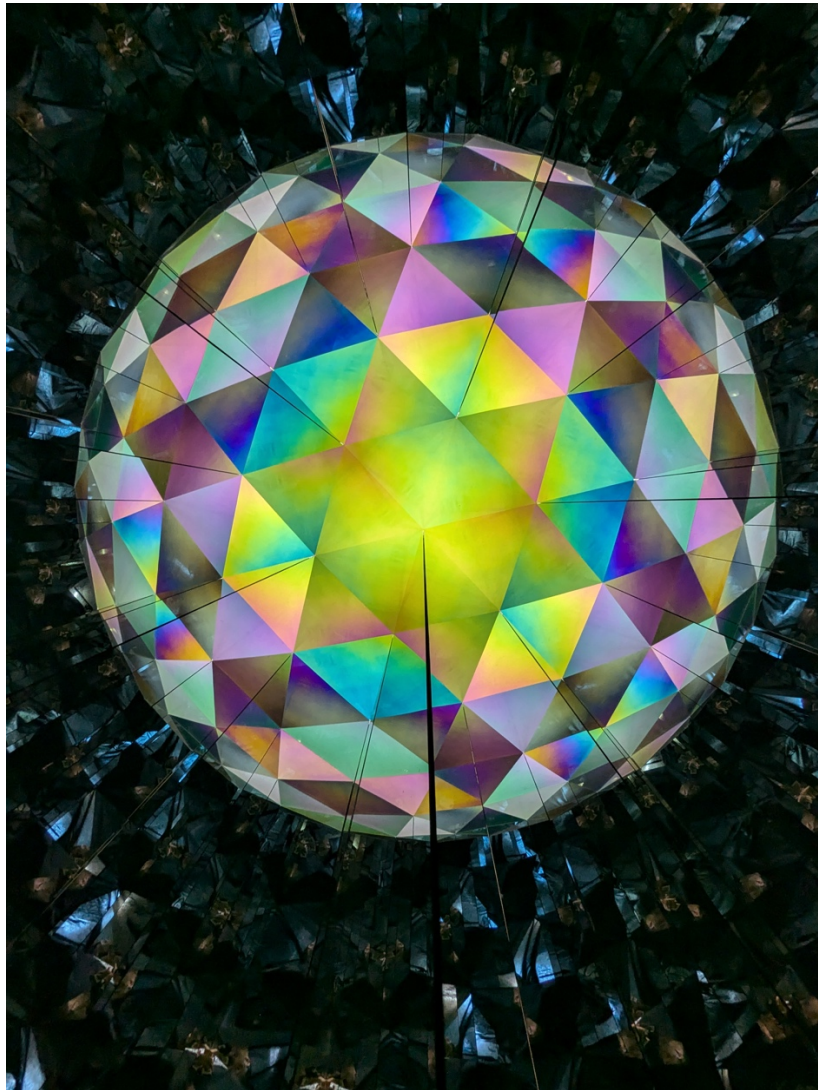
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 20, 2024

**OLAFUR ELIASSON: OPEN DEBUTS SEPTEMBER 15  
AT THE GEFFEN CONTEMPORARY AT MOCA**

PRESENTED AS PART OF PST ART: *ART & SCIENCE COLLIDE*, THE EXHIBITION IS A SITE-SPECIFIC PROJECT PREMIERING OVER A DOZEN MAJOR NEW ARTWORKS

September 15, 2024–July 6, 2025



Olafur Eliasson, *Kaleidoscope for plural perspectives*, 2024; Installation view: Studio Olafur Eliasson, Berlin; Photo: Henri Lacoste | Studio Olafur Eliasson; Courtesy of the artist; Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York/Los Angeles; neugerriemschneider, Berlin © 2024 Olafur Eliasson

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**LOS ANGELES, CA**—The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) is delighted to present *Olafur Eliasson: OPEN* from September 15, 2024 through July 6, 2025 at The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA. The first major solo exhibition of the Icelandic-Danish artist Olafur Eliasson (b. 1967, Copenhagen; lives and works in Berlin) in Los Angeles, *OPEN* is part of the landmark Getty initiative PST ART: *Art & Science Collide* and is organized by José Luis Blondet, Senior Curator, and Rebecca Lowery, Associate Curator, with Emilia Nicholson-Fajardo, Curatorial Assistant, and Anastasia Kahn, former Curatorial Assistant. Continuing Eliasson’s career-long exploration of light and color, geometry, and environmental awareness, *Olafur Eliasson: OPEN* presents a series of site-specific installations responding to MOCA Geffen’s building and the atmospheric conditions of Los Angeles.

*Olafur Eliasson: OPEN* features over a dozen works commissioned for MOCA, along with a selection of recent works organized around the artist’s research on perception, optical devices, physics and natural phenomena, navigational instruments, and color experimentation. Eliasson draws attention to the relativity of our perception and challenges habitual ways of seeing and experiencing the world. The exhibition is informed by the artist’s belief in the potential of inconclusiveness—the idea that every artwork contains an aspect that is radically open.

“Olafur Eliasson’s work is an invitation to explore, reconsider, and co-produce our relationship with the world around us,” said Johanna Burton, The Maurice Marciano Director. “His innovative use of light, color, and space transforms the familiar into the ephemerally extraordinary, encouraging a deeper engagement with the environment and our perceptions of it. This exhibition is a natural extension of MOCA’s commitment to environmental programming, as seen in our ongoing presentations and initiatives focused on climate change and sustainability.”

“In this ambitious project, Eliasson taps into the legacies of artists intimately tied to Los Angeles and MOCA’s rich history of experimentation and innovation,” said Blondet. “From Michael Asher’s site-specific interventions, to Maria Nordman’s exploration of space and time, to Robert Irwin’s perceptual experiments with light and space and James Turrell’s pioneering work in the use of light as a medium.”

“Eliasson is an artist of singular vision who combines scientific levels of precision with a poetic sensibility about the metaphysics of perception,” says co-curator Lowery. “His deep engagement with the specific architectural setting of The Geffen Contemporary will animate this beloved building in new ways for first-time and long-time visitors alike.”

*OPEN* is conceived as a number of fluid experiences staged in the vast industrial spaces of The Geffen Contemporary. The exhibition’s central gallery becomes a point of departure and return, welcoming visitors to meander throughout the museum as they interact with various optical devices that refract and reframe the building and its environments. *OPEN* offers unique explorations of light, perception, and interaction with the environment.

Along with this press release, MOCA is sharing an [artist statement from Eliasson](#), where he discusses the ideas, processes, and intuitions behind *OPEN*. For more information about the exhibition, please contact [communications@moca.org](mailto:communications@moca.org).

## EDUCATION AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS

A series of public and education programs will be offered through the run of the exhibition. Please visit [moca.org/programs](https://moca.org/programs) for information on future programs.

In anticipation of the show’s opening, please join us for a conversation between Olafur Eliasson and Johanna Burton, The Maurice Marciano Director of the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Los Angeles. The event is co-presented by the USC School of Architecture and USC Visions and Voices and will take place at the Bovard Auditorium, University of Southern California, on September 9, 2024 at 7pm. [Free with RSVP](#).

## ABOUT OLAFUR ELIASSON

The works of artist Olafur Eliasson (Icelandic-Danish, b. 1967) explore the relevance of art in the world at large. Since 1997, his wide-ranging solo shows—featuring installations, paintings, sculptures, photography, and film—have appeared in major

museums around the globe. In 2003, he represented Denmark at the 50th Venice Biennale and later that year installed *The weather project* in Tate Modern's Turbine Hall, London. *Take your time: Olafur Eliasson*, a survey exhibition organized by SFMOMA, traveled from 2007 until 2010 to various venues, including the Museum of Modern Art, New York. In 2018, the site-specific installation *Reality projector* transformed the Marciano Foundation in Los Angeles. Exhibitions in 2024 include *Senin beklenmeiddk karşılanman* (Your unexpected encounter) at Istanbul Modern and *Your curious journey*, which opened at Singapore Art Museum (SAM) in May and will travel to Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki, New Zealand; Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taiwan; Museum MACAN, Jakarta, Indonesia; and conclude at the Museum of Contemporary Art and Design, Manila, the Philippines.

Eliasson's projects in public spaces include *The New York City Waterfalls*, 2008; *Fjordenhus*, Vejle, Denmark, 2018; *Ice Watch*, 2014; *Seeing spheres*, 2019, in San Francisco; and *Atmospheric wave wall*, 2020, in Chicago. Harpa Reykjavik Concert Hall and Conference Centre, 2011, for which Eliasson created the facades in collaboration with Henning Larsen Architects, won the Mies van der Rohe Award in 2013.

In 2012, Eliasson started the social business Little Sun, and in 2014, he and Sebastian Behmann founded Studio Other Spaces, an office for art and architecture. In 2019, Eliasson was named UNDP Goodwill Ambassador for climate action. In 2023, he received the Praemium Imperiale from the Japanese imperial family for outstanding contributions to the development, promotion, and progress of the arts.

Located in Berlin, Studio Olafur Eliasson comprises a large team of craftspeople, architects, archivists, researchers, administrators, cooks, art historians, and specialized technicians.

[www.olafureliasson.net](http://www.olafureliasson.net)

#### ABOUT PST ART: ART & SCIENCE COLLIDE

*Olafur Eliasson: OPEN* is among more than 70 exhibitions and programs presented as part of PST ART. Returning in September 2024 with its latest edition, PST ART: *Art & Science Collide*, this landmark regional event explores the intersections of art and science, both past and present. PST ART is presented by Getty. For more information about PST ART: *Art & Science Collide*, please visit [pst.art](http://pst.art)

#### SUPPORT

Presenting support is provided by Mary and David Martin / MADWORKSHOP.

This exhibition is made possible with support from Getty through its PST ART: *Art & Science Collide* initiative.



Lead support is provided by The Aileen Getty Foundation, Maurice Marciano, the MOCA Environmental Council, **Bloomberg Philanthropies**, and Maria Seferian.

Generous support is provided by Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, **CHRISTIE'S**, Kathi and Gary Cypres, Molly and Bill Ford, Agnes Gund, Nancy and Bruce Newberg, and Carolyn Clark Powers.

Additional support is provided by Siri Stolt-Nielsen,  PASADENA ART ALLIANCE, and the Danish Arts Foundation.

Exhibitions at MOCA are supported by the MOCA Fund for Exhibitions with generous funding provided by Jordan S. Goodman + The Goodman Family Foundation, The Earl and Shirley Greif Foundation, and Pamela West.

\*Funders as of August 20, 2024

This exhibition is carbon calculated. The museum reduced greenhouse gas emissions through planning efforts and balanced the remaining emissions through Strategic Climate Fund donations. Support provided by the MOCA Environmental Council.

## ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

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 collection of nearly 8,000 objects, international in scope with deep holdings in Los Angeles art; 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.

## The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA

### Museum Hours

Thurs 11am–5pm

Fri 11am–5pm\*

Sat 11am–6pm

Sun 11am–6pm

Mon–Wed Closed

\*MOCA Geffen is open late from 5–8pm on the first Friday of every month for First Fridays.

## Museum Admission

**General Admission:** General admission to MOCA is free courtesy of Carolyn Clark Powers.

**Special Exhibitions:** Admission to *Olafur Eliasson: OPEN* and other special exhibitions at MOCA Geffen is \$18 for adults; \$10 for students with I.D. and seniors (+65); and free for children under 12 and jurors with I.D. MOCA members always receive free admission to special exhibitions. **First Fridays at MOCA Geffen:** Admission to *Olafur Eliasson: OPEN* is free on the first Friday of every month from 5–8pm. **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](http://moca.org).

## Current Exhibitions:

[Josh Kline: Climate Change](#)

MOCA Grand Avenue

On view through January 5, 2025

[Reverberations](#)

MOCA Grand Avenue

On view through September 29, 2024

## Upcoming Exhibitions and Programs:

[Wonmi's WAREHOUSE Programs](#)

WAREHOUSE at The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA

October 4–November 16, 2024

[Ordinary People: Photorealism and the Work of Art since 1968](#)

MOCA Grand Avenue

November 23, 2024–May 4, 2025

[MOCA Focus: Ana Segovia](#)

MOCA Grand Avenue

November 23, 2024–May 4, 2025

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