

Long Beach Museum of Art

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IMAGES AVAILABLE

LBMA PRESENTS "MODERNISM AND THE MILTON WICHNER COLLECTION" INCLUDING SOME OF THE MUSEUM'S MOST SIGNIFICANT WORKS OF ART

LONG BEACH (October 22, 2008) – The Long Beach Museum of Art will present *Modernism and the Milton Wichner Collection* from November 7, 2008 – August 16, 2009. This exhibition and its related programming will highlight the Museum's important collection of European and American works of modern art including the 1979 gift to LBMA from Milton Wichner, a Los Angeles-based lawyer. On view as part of the Milton Wichner Collection are over two dozen paintings by such seminal modern European artists as Alexej Jawlensky, Vasily Kandinsky, Lyonel Feininger, Oskar Fischinger and Laszlo Maholy-Nagy. In order to provide a wide-ranging survey of modern art in both Europe and the United States during the mid-20th century, the exhibition will also include fifty additional works from LBMA's collection from such well-known artists as Charles and Ray Eames, Helen Lundeberg, John McLaughlin, Karl Benjamin, Hans Burkhardt and others.

Although the artists represented in *Modernism and the Milton Wichner Collection* worked in a multitude of styles and materials, they are bound together by their conscious break from earlier artistic traditions, their interest in experimentation and their desire to create universal, abstract forms. In addition, many of the artists in the exhibition were influenced by twentieth century advances in science and technology, including discoveries in the study of molecules and atoms, space exploration, and the development of new materials such as aluminum.

Though primarily made up of paintings, the exhibition also includes sculpture, ceramics, drawing, furniture, prints, and glass.

Modernism and the Milton Wichner Collection also highlights the Long Beach Museum of Art's current Ahmanson Foundation-funded effort to digitize and make web accessible the Museum's entire collection of European and American modern art. That effort will be fully realized in the spring of 2009 with the launch of the *Modernism Access Project*. The first phase of making our collections web-accessible was completed earlier this year with the unveiling of the *Ceramics Access Project*, now available at www.lbma.org.

The Museum will host a preview reception for Museum members and members of the press on November 13, 2008 from 5-7 p.m. (The popular LBMA After Dark event will run from 6-10 p.m. and is open to the public. There is a \$10 cover charge at the door, but Museum members and a guest are admitted free.)

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About the Long Beach Museum of Art

Located at 2300 East Ocean Blvd. on a magnificent bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean, the Long Beach Museum of Art features a historic mansion and carriage house, expansive galleries and gardens, oceanfront dining at Claire's at the Museum and a unique Museum Store. The galleries and store are open Tuesday – Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Claire's at the Museum is open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday – Friday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$6 for students and seniors age 62 and older, free for Museum members and children under 12, and free for everyone on Friday. For more information, call (562) 439-2119 or visit www.lbma.org.

Images (top to bottom)

Emil Bisttram, *Play of Two Cells*, 1943, Colored pencils on paper, 8 x 5 7/8 inches, Gift of Elisabeth W. Dentzel in memory of Carl S. Dentzel, 80-1.21; Oskar Fischinger, *Yellow Brown*, 1944, Oil on celotex, 32 x 38 inches, Gift of Elfriede Fischinger 70-1.1; John McLaughlin, *Untitled*, 1956, Oil on canvas, 36 1/3 x 44 1/8 inches, Gift of Dr. Ludwig Uri 58-9.39; Alexej Jawlensky, *Elongated Head A*, 1920, Oil on unstretched canvas, 13 5/8 x 9 7/16 inches, The Milton Wichner Collection Bequest, 1979 79-3.5; Gerrit Rietveld, *Zig Zag Chair*, 1934- 1967, Beechwood, 36 x 15 x 15 inches, Museum Purchase 67-8.21; Karl Benjamin, *Buildings/New York*, 1955, Oil on canvas, 44 x 24 inches, Gift of An and Hugh McDowell, 2003.15

“MODERNISM AND THE MILTON WICHNER COLLECTION”

November 7, 2008 – August 16, 2009

List of artists

Clinton Adams
Laura Andreson
Alexander Archipenko
Karl Benjamin
Harry Bertoia
Emil Bisttram
Dorr Bothwell
Bettina Brendel
Nicholas Brigante
Dorothy Brown
Byron Browne
Hans Burkhardt
Paul Dachsel
Annemarie Davidson
Rupert Deese
Juilius Dressler
Werner Drewes

Charles and Ray Eames
Claire Falkenstein
Lyonel Feininger*
Lorser Feitelson
Max Finkelstein
Oskar Fischinger*
Marguerite Friedlander
Gunther Gerzso
Hilaire Hiler
Alexej Jawlensky*
Vasily Kandinsky*
John A. Kapel
Charles Keck
Max Laeuger
John Leeper
Beatrice Levy
Helen Lundeberg

Laszlo Maholy-Nagy*
Roberto Matta
Zella Margraff
Harrison McIntosh
Carlos Merida
John McLaughlin
Gertrud and Otto Natzler
Barnett Newman
Gerrt Reitveld
Charles Schneider
James Simpson
Bob Stocksdale
Jack Stuck
Abraham Walkowitz
June Wayne

*included works are part of the Milton Wichner Collection

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