

Long Beach Museum of Art

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Long Beach Museum of Art Recipient of \$194,766
Institute of Museum and Library Services Museums for America Grant

Grant Awarded for the Institution's Permanent Collection of Works by Modern and Contemporary Women Artists in the California Art Scene, Mid-Century to Present

LONG BEACH, CA (October 21, 2019) – The Long Beach Museum of Art was awarded a 2019 Museums for America Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in the amount of \$194,766. Funding through the agency's largest competitive federal grant program will enable the Museum to create and maintain digital assets focusing on the institution's permanent collection of 271 women artists in all media, including wood, enamel, painting, sculpture, photography, and artist books. Over a three-year period, the project will result in free, online access to over 500 digital images and artist biographies via the Museum's searchable online collections database. The project will provide public access to nearly 70 years of artistic output by California women from 1950 to present, thereby increasing its visibility and appreciation.

This year the IMLS received 449 applications requesting \$74,488,442. Of these, the IMLS selected 112 projects to receive funding totaling \$19,091,464. Reviewers identified these proposals as examples of the types of projects that strengthen the ability of an individual museum to serve its public as community anchors and by preserving and providing access to the collection entrusted in its care.

"As centers of learning and catalysts of community change, libraries and museums connect people with programs, services, collections, information, and new ideas in the arts, sciences and humanities," said IMLS Director Dr. Kathryn K. Matthew. "Receiving a grant from IMLS is a significant achievement, and we congratulate the Long Beach Museum of Art for being among the 2019 IMLS museum grantees."

Collecting works by modern and contemporary female artists began with the Institution in 1950, establishing what would become the core of the permanent collection. Works by women artists were very much a key part of the exhibition schedule for solo and group exhibitions, juried exhibitions, and subsequently included in the permanent collection through artist gifts and awards. These artists are trailblazers, each one essential to the momentum and growth of the arts in California and the nation, and their contributions ultimately opened the door for equality for future generations of artists.

Long Beach Museum of Art and Recipient of IMLS Grant Award - Continued

“This is really exciting news as we are in a very select group of only 11 museums in the state and one of two in Southern California from the 112 national projects who received this prestigious IMLS grant,” stated Ron Nelson, Executive Director of the Long Beach Museum of Art. “This award reaffirms the important work the Museum does and our continued passion of caring for and making historic works accessible to all, in this case women artists from our permanent collection from throughout Southern California.”

As a part of the IMLS project, the Museum will exhibit and survey seven decades of collected works by women artists and their contributions to the Golden State’s artistic scene. More than 100 extraordinary women and their artworks will be on view in *Women Artists of Southern California, past and present*, in the Hartman Pavilion and Galleries from January 24 - April 26, 2020.

About the Long Beach Museum of Art

Founded in 1950, the Long Beach Museum of Art is a community anchor institution for the visual arts. Located on a magnificent bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean, the campus features an historic, three-story California Craftsman mansion and two-story Carriage House, expansive galleries and gardens, a museum store, and oceanfront dining at Claire’s at the Museum Restaurant. The Museum is a nationally accredited art museum that collects and cares for a prized permanent art collection, presents changing exhibitions in a variety of media, and is the principal visual arts institution for culture and educational programming for a culturally diverse Long Beach community. The Museum’s permanent collection displays over 4,000 paintings, drawings, ceramics, sculptures, works on paper and decorative arts objects. The institution holds one of the most fascinating permanent collections of earthenware ceramics from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Particular strengths include contemporary California art, California Modernism, 20th and 21st century California women artists, and early 20th century European art.

About the Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s libraries and museums. We advance, support, and empower America’s museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. Our vision is a nation where museums and libraries work together to transform the lives of individuals and communities. To learn more, visit www.imls.gov and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).