

## Bechtler Museum of Modern Art Celebrates *Twentieth Century Women*

**New Exhibition on View February 13 – September 26, 2021**

**Charlotte, N.C.** – The Bechtler Museum of Modern Art presents *Twentieth Century Women*, an exhibition that examines the groundbreaking achievements of women artists represented in the collections of the Bechtler family. The exhibition features 100 works by 23 artists who have made significant contributions to 20th-century modernism and its legacies. Celebrating their artistic singularity and creativity, *Twentieth Century Women* explores a century of artistic production and the ways that women fit into and redefine the narrative of modern art.

On view in the Bechtler's fourth-floor gallery, *Twentieth Century Women* expands awareness of underrecognized artists and explores their individual biographies and the socio-historic context in which they created. Key works in the exhibition are accompanied by large-scale images of the artists at work in their studios, giving the visitor a sense of the artists' vitality and vibrant personalities. Along with painting, sculpture, photography, drawing, collage, prints, textiles and photography, library and archive items will be displayed. These items include personal correspondence which emphasize the intimate nature of the Bechtler collection and highlight the personal relationships between the Bechtler family and the artists they championed.

"This will be the first significant exhibition in the Bechtler's 10-year history to focus solely on the artistic achievements by women artists in the collection," said Todd D. Smith, Executive Director. "Presenting 100 works of art by 23 women artists in one exhibition provides a collective perspective of just how influential these women were to 20th-century modernism."

Artists featured in the exhibition include: Anna-Eva Bergman (Swedish, 1909-1987), Lisbeth Bissier (German, 1903-1989), Audrey Flack (American, b. 1931), Cornelia Forster (Swiss, 1906-1990), Maud Gatewood (American, 1934-2004), Maja Godlewska (Polish, b. 1965), Lee Hall (American, 1934-2017), Barbara Heé (Swiss, b. 1957), Barbara Hepworth (British, 1903-1975), Vera Isler-Leiner (German, 1931-2015), Gillian Jagger (British, 1930-2019), Warja Lavater (Swiss, 1913-2007), Meret Oppenheim (German, 1913-1985), Betty Parsons (American, 1900-1982), Alicia Penalba (Argentine, 1913-1982), Niki de Saint Phalle (French, 1930-2002), Isabel Quintanilla (Spanish, 1938- 2017), Germaine Richier (French, 1904-1959), Bridget Riley (British, b. 1930), Katherina Sallenbach (Swiss, 1920-2013), Hedde Stern (Romanian, 1910-2011), Elizabeth R. Turk (American, b. 1961), and Maria Helena Vieira da Silva (Portuguese, 1908-1992).

"The exhibition traces threads through various generations of artists working in different times and places, celebrating the universal and humanizing language of modern art," said Anastasia James, Curator, Bechtler Museum of Modern Art.

Highlights of the exhibition include the work of German Richier, a French artist best known for her human-animal hybrid bronze sculptures that often-incorporated themes in classical mythology. The exhibition includes her monumental 1946 bronze *La Sauterelle (The Grasshopper)*, and a selection of aquatints made to accompany an edition of Arthur Rimbaud's

*A Season in Hell*. Other highlights include a selection of folded-accordion artists books by Swiss artist and illustrator Warja Lavater, who created fantastical lyric narratives using pictograms instead of words to retell classic fairy tales. Further, a never-before-exhibited series of painted-wood sculptures by American artist and art dealer Betty Parsons will be included. Parsons is often referred to as “the den mother of Abstract Expressionism” for her early support of the Abstract Expressionist Movement at her art gallery. Finally, the museum will exhibit for the first time a tapestry by Lisbeth Bissier, a German self-taught weaver who opened her own textile factory in the 1940s and financially supported herself and her husband, Julius Bissier through her work.

Support for *Twentieth Century Women* is generously provided by Classica Homes, Bellecapital, Truist Bank and Flagship Healthcare Properties.

For information on tickets, hours of operation, and associated programming, visit [bechtler.org](http://bechtler.org).

### **ABOUT THE BECHTLER MUSEUM OF MODERN ART**

Home to Charlotte’s iconic *Firebird* sculpture by Niki de Saint Phalle, the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art is filled with works by Miró, Giacometti, Calder, Warhol, Klee, and a wealth of other 20th-century notables. The Bechtler collection juxtaposes whimsy with work of significant intellectual depth and historical significance. Cosmopolitan in nature yet intimate in scale, the museum, designed by Mario Botta, provides an experience that is inspiring and approachable. The artworks were committed to the city of Charlotte by Andreas Bechtler, who, along with his family, built the collection over 70 years. Located in the heart of Uptown, the Bechtler is a light-filled community space created to engage audiences of all ages through exhibitions, jazz and film series, interactive art activities, and family days throughout the year. Visit [bechtler.org](http://bechtler.org) for more information.

---

### **MEDIA CONTACT**

Hillary Hardwick, Vice President of Marketing and Communications

[hillary.hardwick@bechtler.org](mailto:hillary.hardwick@bechtler.org)

704.353.9204

### **Images Available Upon Request**



---

Bechtler Museum of Modern Art at Levine Center for the Arts | 420 S. Tryon St. | Charlotte, NC 28202 | 704.353.9200 | [bechtler.org](http://bechtler.org)



Be social with the #Bechtler.