Art Commissioning Program
Fact Sheet

Overview
Contemporary art commissions are a vital part of SFMOMA’s commitment to sharing the art of our time with visitors. The SFMOMA art commissioning program invites leading artists to create new works, featured in many spaces throughout the museum.

The contemporary art commissioning program engages artists from around the world who are working in a wide variety of media, creating a dynamic and ever-changing experience for visitors. Through this program, in conjunction with educational programs, public symposia, artist talks, museum guide training and digital resources, SFMOMA offers illuminating and surprising art experiences for the Bay Area and beyond.

Current Commission
- Julie Mehretu
  SFMOMA commissioned American artist Julie Mehretu to create two large-scale paintings—each 32 by 27 feet—that cover the expansive, angled walls in the museum’s Haas, Jr. Atrium, the main entry to the museum and part of its unticketed space. Mehretu is known for her densely layered abstract paintings and works on paper, which often incorporate the dynamic visual vocabulary of maps, urban-planning grids and architectural forms.

Recent Commissions
Since 2016, SFMOMA commissioned several artists to create new works for the expanded museum, including:
- Kerry Tribe
  SFMOMA commissioned Standardized Patient (2017), a two-channel video installation by Los Angeles–based artist and filmmaker Kerry Tribe, for the museum’s New Work series. This installation offered insight into the work of Standardized Patients—professional actors who portray patients in a simulated clinical environment for medical students’ training.

- Andrea Geyer
  Andrea Geyer’s site-specific installation To Those Who Have Eyes to See (2017) brought to light the history of American women as champions of modern art via the enduring legacy of Grace McCann Morley, SFMOMA’s director from the museum’s founding in 1935 until 1958. On view in the museum’s free-to-visit Koret Education Center, To Those Who Have Eyes To See celebrated diverse narratives, including the modern histories of both exhibition design and LGBTQ communities, and Morley’s conviction that art and museums are neither luxuries nor pastimes but fundamental necessities.

- Tomás Saraceno
  Tomás Saraceno’s immersive installation Stillness in Motion – Cloud Cities (2016) filled the Architecture + Design gallery on the sixth floor and suggested a creative model for airborne utopian cities of the future.
• Sohei Nishino
SFMOMA commissioned a photomap by Sohei Nishino titled *Diorama Map San Francisco* (2016) for its New Work series. Nishino spent two months photographing the city on foot, then meticulously assembling between 15,000 and 20,000 images made with film into a photomap according to his memories and experiences.

• Claudy Jongstra
SFMOMA commissioned Dutch designer Claudy Jongstra to create a monumental, site-specific textile mural, *Aarde* (2016)—meaning “earth” in English—that spanned a large wall on the museum’s fifth-floor Barbara and Gerson Bakar Bridge. The work is a visceral landscape of texture and color, using wool from heritage sheep Jongstra raises outside of her studio in the Netherlands and hand-dyed from botanicals cultivated on her farm. For the first time, the artist also utilized an application of local minerals and flora for an enhanced surface effect. Working within a closed loop of resources, Jongstra’s work exemplifies a contemporary, socially responsible practice.

• Jason Lazarus
*About Time: Photography in a Moment of Change*, one of the inaugural exhibitions in the new Pritzker Center for Photography, featured a newly commissioned installation by photographer Jason Lazarus entitled *Recordings #3 (At Sea)* (2014–2016).

• Rosana Castrillo Díaz
Commissioned work by Rosana Castrillo Díaz is on view in In Situ, SFMOMA’s ground floor restaurant. Castrillo Díaz created a site-specific mural for the restaurant’s front wall—visible from Third Street—which measures 13 by 23 feet and is situated in the lounge area. The design for the painting consists of a single dahlia, which was named the official flower of San Francisco in 1926. The mural was executed in five shades of white that range in both tone and reflectivity. Castrillo Díaz was a 2004 recipient of the Society for the Encouragement of Contemporary Art (SECA) Art Award, a biennial SFMOMA award that recognizes Bay Area artists.

• Tucker Nichols
Commissioned work by Tucker Nichols is on view in the restaurant In Situ. Nichols created a suite of several dozen framed works on paper that are installed primarily on the restaurant’s back wall, in the main dining area. Responding to Chef Corey Lee’s concept of a curated menu of recipes from all over the world, the drawings respond to the graphic, sculptural and sometimes humorous character of contemporary food and its presentation.

**Past Commissions**
SFMOMA has a long history of commissioning artists. Previous artworks commissioned by the museum for the Haas, Jr. Atrium include:

• Jim Campbell, *Exploded Views* (2011)
• Sarah Sze, *Things Fall Apart* (2001)
• Gu Wenda, *united nations--babel of the millennium* (1999)
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Media Contacts
Jill Lynch, jilynch@sfmoma.org, 415.357.4172
Clara Hatcher, chatcher@sfmoma.org, 415.357.4177
Emma LeHocky, elehocky@sfmoma.org, 415.357.4170
Taylor Brandon, tbrandon@sfmoma.org, 415.915.1782