

Exhibition programme Moderna Museet

Stockholm

The Third Hand

Maurizio Cattelan and Moderna Museet's Collection

24 February 2024–12 January 2025

Who has the power over art, society, life, and death? Using satire and humour, provocation and seriousness Maurizio Cattelan, one of the most prominent and irreverent artists of our times, questions the conventions of society in general and the art world in particular. The exhibition "The Third Hand" includes several of Maurizio Cattelan's most iconic works alongside pieces that he has chosen from Moderna Museet's collection.

Born in Italy in 1960, Maurizio Cattelan has been living in Milan and New York for the past thirty years. The scrutiny of power and belief systems is a theme that runs through his entire body of work but he leaves the interpretation of his artworks to the viewer:

A pope is struck down by a meteorite, pigeons watch us from above, a shrunk Sistine Chapel lets us see all the amazing details at eye level, a dictator becomes a pathetic figure, perhaps asking for forgiveness, a monumental fascist greeting is nullified by missing fingers, a man and a dog seem to share a common dream or death...

The exhibition's title is open to interpretation. Perhaps it is Maurizio Cattelan himself who is the third hand, who inserts himself between the institution Moderna Museet and its collection to interrogate and shine a critical light: Which art should be part of a collection? Which works should be exhibited? What or who decides what is important art?

Maurizio Cattelan's encounter with and selection from Moderna Museet's collection extends over six galleries, in which works by Swedish and international artists are shown together with his own.

Curator: Moderna Museet's Director Gitte Ørskou.

The Altersea Opera

The Nordic Pavilion at La Biennale di Venezia

20 April–24 November 2024

The artist Lap-See Lam will turn the Nordic Pavilion at the Venice Biennale into a dragon ship filled with mythological water creatures in search of their roots. By means of a magic sail – a weave made up of stories – the ship's passengers attempt to find their way back to places in past.

Moderna Museet is leading the work on the 2024 version of the International Art Exhibition in Venice for which Lap-See Lam (Sweden) has been invited to create a "total work of art". In collaboration with the museum, she has extended the invitation to artist Kholod Hawash (Finland) and composer Tze Yeung Ho (Norway).

They will be presenting an experimental opera, an audio-visual adventure about being in a state of loss and longing, the mutability of myth and connecting through multilingualism.

On entering the pavilion, visitors will experience an imaginary ship shaped like a dragon, inspired by Floating Sea Palace, a site that has been through countless transformations. The once splendid floating restaurant was deserted, looted, and later served as a haunted house at an amusement park in Stockholm.

At the centre of this drama is Lo Ting – half human, half fish. Away from the sea he is desperately longing for his previous life on Fragrant Harbour. Unable to fit in and speak his language, he attempts to tackle the waves on his way across the oceans, sailing through time and space.

During the opening days in Venice, the opera will be performed by an ensemble consisting of singers, musicians, and actors.

Curator: Asrin Haidari, Moderna Museet

The project was initiated by Moderna Museet in collaboration with the Office for Contemporary Art Norway (OCA) and the Finnish National Gallery Kiasma (Museum of Contemporary Art).

Vaginal Davis: Magnificent Product

17 May–13 October 2024

In the exhibition "Magnificent Product", we welcome the visitor to the wondrous world of American artist, filmmaker, performer and writer Vaginal Davis. In her pioneering and incredibly diverse oeuvre, punk meets glamour, queer activism meets racial justice and resistance meets joy. An icon of contemporary queer history, Vaginal Davis has made scenes for a living since the early 1980s. This presentation is a collaboration between different institutions in Stockholm.

Naming herself after radical Black feminist Angela Davis, Vaginal Davis emerged in the queer punk scene of Los Angeles in the 1980s, and moved to Berlin in the early 2000s.

Magnificent Product is Vaginal Davis's first major solo exhibition. Moderna Museet presents three large-scale installations that reflect her artistic range, starting with the artist's early films and recordings of iconic punk concerts and nightclub events from the 1990s. The second installation, entitled *HAG – small, contemporary, haggard*, is a manifestation of her former apartment gallery in Los Angeles, now showing some of Ms. Davis's own paintings and sculptures. Lastly, *The Wicked Pavilion* takes the viewer further into Vaginal Davis's universe, as she draws out the core elements of her practice through her "fantasy library" and an installation of a "tween bedroom".

Curator: Hendrik Folkerts, Moderna Museet

The exhibition Magnificent Product is initiated by Moderna Museet and extends across several locations in Stockholm: Moderna Museet, Nationalmuseum, Accelerator, Index – The Swedish Contemporary Art Foundation, Tensta konsthall and MDT (Moderna Dansteatern). Each institution highlights a different aspect of Vaginal Davis's expansive practice.

The exhibition is generously supported by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and the Terra Foundation for American Art.

German Expressionism – Die Brücke

7 September 2024–9 March 2025

The artist group Brücke is Germany's most important contribution to international modernism. The group was formed in Dresden in 1905 by the four young architecture students Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Otto Bleyl, Erich Heckel and Karl Schmidt-Rottluff. Together they developed a painting style with vivid colours, simplified forms and large colour fields that express internal feelings, rather than reproducing an external reality. The exhibition encompasses around two hundred artworks in a variety of media – painting, woodcuts, works on paper and sculpture.

Die Brücke (bridge) wanted to revive the field of art and break with the prevailing strict moral norms of the German Empire. The artists were inspired by the likes of Paul Gauguin, Vincent van Gogh and Edvard Munch, their motifs including people and nature. They engaged in nude studies, painted portraits, and depicted scenes from the studio where life and art merged. After relocating to the capital, Berlin, in 1911, big city life became another focus of their work.

Die Brücke formulated manifestos, invited supporters to become members, organised their own exhibitions and tours, as well as designing their own catalogues and posters. The group disbanded in 1913, but their collaboration and marketing strategies have been inspirational for several generations of artists.

The exhibition is a collaboration with the Brücke Museum in Berlin, which has the most extensive collection of the artist group's work.

Curator: Iris Müller-Westermann, Senior Curator at Moderna Museet

Katalin Ladik: Oooooooooo-pus

9 November 2024 –20 April 2025

Say the exhibition's name aloud and step into the wondrous world of Katalin Ladik's poetry. A pioneer of experimental sound art, photography, and performance art, in Central and Eastern Europe and beyond. She has used her body and voice as both instrument and medium since the 1960s. "Oooooooooo-pus" is the first major exhibition of her work in Scandinavia.

Katalin Ladik was born in 1942 in Novi Sad (former Yugoslavia, now Serbia) and currently lives and works in Hungary. Her work is rooted in the multi-ethnic, multilingual and feminist avant-gardes of former Yugoslavia.

Ladik refers to her collages of sewing patterns, sheet music, magazine cutouts, and found objects such as circuit boards from radios and kitchen appliances, as "visual poems". She uses these visual poems as music scores, interpreting them with her extraordinary voice and expanding her textual and visual vocabulary with phonetic experiments.

Oooooooooo-pus is an exhibition that can be heard as much as seen. A red thread running from Katalin Ladik's sewing machine leads visitors through the exhibition, which brings together approximately one hundred works from the artist's sixty-year career – from her revolutionary visual and sonic poems to her groundbreaking work in photo-performance and live performance. Each room in the exhibition has its own soundscape, anchored in the artist's sonic poetry.

"First, and above all, I am a poet. I constantly try to expand the boundaries of poetry. Whatever material I use in my work, I always convey a poetic message through it; voice poetry with my voice, concrete poetry with my visual works and collages, and multimedia poetic performances with my body", says Katalin Ladik in an interview from 2020.

The exhibition *Oooooooooo-pus* is part of a collaboration with Haus der Kunst, Munich, curated by Hendrik Folkerts from Moderna Museet, Stockholm, and Sarah Johanna Theurer and Manuela Hillmann from Haus der Kunst.

Katalin Ladik quoted in an interview from 2020; <https://secondaryarchive.org/artists/katalin-ladik/>

Surrealism in the Moderna Museet Collection (working title)

19 October 2024 – 18 January 2026

In 2024, it was one hundred years ago since the French poet André Breton wrote the first Surrealist Manifesto. This exhibition digs deep into Moderna Museet's world famous Surrealist collection and the movement's influence in our time. Iconic paintings and sculptures meet the bubbling sludge in Robert Rauschenberg's *Mud Muse* and Maya Deren's dreamlike filmscapes.

Surrealism was an intellectual, literary, and artistic movement, which aimed to change society and free the individual. In its first manifesto from 1924, André Breton defines it as a way of thinking beyond rationality, stripped of aesthetic and moral obligations. As it was never a well-defined style, but rather an approach it has continued to inform art history and remain relevant.

The exhibition follows in the wake of the best-known works of classical surrealism by later artists that are dealing with the subconscious, the irrational, and the darker, violent aspects of a craving culture. These works also highlight the way the surrealists' radical experiments with automatism, games and randomness are applied within the Fluxus movement and minimalism, as well as in the AI-generated sound and imagery that we are confronted with today.

Included in this exhibition is a large number of works from the Moderna Museet collections, select works on loan and examples from literature and film. Represented are, among others,

Maya Deren, Rebecca Horn, Wifredo Lam, Renée Magritte, Joan Miró, Meret Oppenheim, Robert Rauschenberg, Dorothea Tanning and Toyen.

Curator: Lena Essling, Moderna Museet

Exhibition programme Moderna Museet Malmö

Unhealed

2 March–15 September 2024

The international group exhibition *Unhealed* delves into the aftermath of what is often referred to as the Arab Uprisings or Revolutions, and that swept through the Arab world starting in 2010. These events altered the lives of millions of people, many of whom as a consequence now live in Sweden. With this exhibition, Moderna Museet Malmö proudly presents seventeen artists who, in thought-provoking and poignant ways, have addressed this still unfolding chapter in history.

What may feel too complicated or painful to convey in words can often find other means of expression through art. *Unhealed* portrays existential experiences amid major social upheaval. The exhibition embodies a poetic narrative rather than a strict historical account. It navigates through the endless circle of hope and despair, bringing us beyond political analysis.

The contributing artists are predominantly based in Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, and Yemen, but also in Albania, Italy, Romania, and Sweden. Among them are Asim Abdulaziz, Aya Albarghathy, Muhammad Ali, Héla Ammar, Marwa al-Sabouni, Selim Ben Sheikh, Shady Elnoshokaty, Safaa Erruas, Hadia Gana, Khaled Hafez, Diana Jabi, Rachid Koraichi, Moataz Nasr, Adrian Paci, Mario Rizzi, Fethi Sahraoui, and Mouna Jemal Siala.

The exhibition is curated by the Syrian curator Abir Boukhari, who has lived and worked in Stockholm since 2015, in close collaboration with Joa Ljungberg, curator at Moderna Museet Malmö.

Monica Sjöö

The Great Cosmic Mother

23 March–1 September 2024

Art, politics and spirituality are inseparable in Swedish-British artist Monica Sjöö's oeuvre. With a deep commitment to women's rights and environmentalism, she fought uncompromisingly for freedom and became a key figure in the British women's liberation movement.

Monica Sjöö (1938–2005) was born in Härnösand but spent most of her adult life in Bristol. Her commitment to women's liberation and environmentalism were inseparable from her inner conviction of being part of a cosmic greater whole, which she expressed in "The Great Mother", whose essence, according to Sjöö, permeates both nature and being.

“The Great Cosmic Mother” is the first retrospective museum exhibition of Monica Sjöö’s oeuvre. Presenting some fifty works from Sjöö’s entire practice, it spans from monumental paintings to political posters and banners, drawings, and archival material.

We encounter works that were all created to promote social change and caused controversy as well as cries for censorship at the time. Their subject matter and messages are just as relevant today.

“Monica Sjöö – The Great Cosmic Mother” is organised in close collaboration with Modern Art Oxford. After having premiered at Moderna Museet in Stockholm, the exhibition was shown at Modern Art Oxford before travelling to Moderna Museet Malmö.

Curators: Jo Widoff, Moderna Museet, and Amy Budd, Modern Art Oxford.

Fantastic and Horrific

Marija Prymatjenko and Works from the Moderna Museet Collection

21 September 2024 – 16 March 2025

Marija Prymatjenko (1908–1997) is one of Ukraine’s best-known and most beloved artists. Here stylized, playful patterns are inspired by local embroidery and other traditional handicrafts. In the exhibition *Fantastic and Horrific* her works become a brilliantly colourful lamentation as it is juxtaposed with pieces from the Moderna Museet collection and artists that relate to our time.

Marija Prymatjenko's dark blue starry skies, dazzling sunflowers and fantastic creatures are part of a vibrant world that also bears traces of grief and pain. Her art is shown alongside works by Marc Chagall, Niki de Saint Phalle and Pablo Picasso, all contemporaneous with the artist and who worked with similar motifs.

Pablo Picasso (1881–1973) was a great admirer of Prymatjenko's work. This exhibition accentuates their participation in the International Exposition of Art and Technology in Paris in 1937, where Picasso showed his painting *Guernica*, which, alongside many of Prymatjenko's works, has become a symbol of peace.

When Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, the museum in Marija Prymatjenko's hometown of Ivankiv was immediately targeted and bombed, and several of her paintings were destroyed. The attack is an example of the way art is used in war and a means of destroying a people and a culture.

Curator: Elisabeth Millqvist, director of Moderna Museet Malmö.

On the Absurd Drama that is also Life

26 October 2024–23 February 2025

“On the Absurd Drama that is also Life” is a group exhibition that invites the viewer to approach the farcical and theatrical with an open mind. Here we meet artists that transport us to situations and states beyond

sense and logic, and at the same time reflect our times. Together they draw attention to the theatre of life's incomprehensibility on the stage of the everyday that surrounds it, and combine a subtle resistance with a quest for freedom.

Apart from newly produced and recent artworks by contemporary artists like Monster Chetwynd and Kris Lemsalu, the exhibition also includes artists from Moderna Museet's collection, such as Francis Picabia, Ralph Eugene Meatyard and Greta Knutson-Tzara.

The exhibition thus presents a range of artistic media, techniques and periods, bringing together works that have a close kinship with theatre and drama. The artists share an approach and attitude in which humour, provocation, playfulness and seriousness are interwoven – spontaneously, intentionally or perhaps coincidentally.

The exhibition includes a number of scheduled performances. Look out for them in our calendar.

Curator: Andreas Nilsson, Moderna Museet Malmö