

Welcome to a new major exhibition where the contemporary art takes center stage:

The Art of Collecting Expanding the Moderna Museet Collection

11 October 2025–17 January 2027

Experience artworks that Moderna Museet has recently acquired through purchase or received as gifts. In “Art of Collecting”, the audience encounter a selection of new Swedish and international acquisitions. The exhibition, where contemporary art dominates, highlights different dimensions of collecting and the choices that shape the Moderna Museet Collection for the future.

Moderna Museet has one of Europe’s foremost collections of international modern and contemporary art. Over the past five years, over 2,000 artworks have been added to the collection.

The exhibition “The Art of Collecting” presents around 40 of the new acquisitions – including paintings, installations, video works and sculptures, spread across the exhibition’s 660 square metres.

Growing in new directions

The artworks and practises that visitors encounter in the exhibition are examples of how the Moderna Museet Collection is growing in new directions, with new voices and different perspectives.

Here you will find Outi Pieski’s textile installation “Beavvit II” (2021), which brings to mind the changes in the sky and was created with inspiration from duodji – a Sami aesthetic expression that has both a functional and spiritual dimension –, Hans Haacke’s “The Road to Profit Is Paved with Culture” from 1976 – a montage that critically examines cultural sponsorship as a strategy to strengthen brands and deflect criticism –, and Anna Odell’s acclaimed video installation “Unknown, Woman 2009–34970”, which depicts forced care in Swedish psychiatry through a staging.

Other examples are works by Peter Geschwind, Deana Lawson, Jockum Nordström, Rose B. Simpson and Iiu Susiraja.

The artworks’ path into the collection

What determines whether an artwork should and can be included in the collection or not? What does the decision-making process look like? What stories and voices should the collection contain? What gaps should be filled and what new stories should be included?

In the exhibition’s audio guide, the audience gets an insight into the museum’s often “invisible” work with the collection – the work that is done behind the scenes. The visitor is invited, through the perspective of various museum professionals, to explore the journey artworks make as they enter the Collection and are prepared to go on display in an exhibition: from considerations before a purchase or a gift, the curator’s perspective and the

conservator's analysis of a work, to the artwork's placement on the shelf of the depository and its final position on display in the exhibition space ready to meet the audience.

Curator: Asrin Haidari

Facts

The Moderna Museet Collection in numbers

The Moderna Museet Collection currently comprises around 6,000 paintings, sculptures and installations, approximately 25,000 watercolours, drawings and graphic sheets, 400 art videos and films and approximately 100,000 photographs.

Recent new acquisitions

In the past five years (the period 2020–August 2025), the museum has acquired 2,084 artworks. The new acquisitions include 1,676 artworks by Swedish artists and 408 artworks by artists in other countries.

373 of the works were purchased through the additional allocation by the government (2021) of SEK 25 million for the purchase of art to support the Swedish art scene during the Corona pandemic.

About the Audio guide

The exhibition's audio guide will be available from the opening date in the digital exhibition guide: guide.modernamuseet.se

A number of works in the exhibition have a QR-code that leads to the audio guide track of the work in question.

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