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Fil-Am artist Pacita Abad's retrospective at SF MoMA comes with free admission and workshops

mvillegas

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View of the exhibition “Pacita Abad: A Million Things to Say” at the Museum of Contemporary Art and Design (MCAD) at the De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde in 2018. Photo by At Maculangan/Pioneer Studios from the Pacita Abad Art Estate and MCAD Manila

In April, the Walker Art Center mounted the first retrospective of the works of Filipino-American artist Pacita Abad, who is known for her

life-sized trapunto or painted and quilted canvasses.

Over 100 works from her 32-year career, including experiments in different mediums, ranging from textiles and works on paper to costumes and ceramics—some never before seen in the United States—were displayed until Sept. 3.

This October, 40 of Abad’s multifaceted works made their way to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, as a continuation of her first US retrospective.

You may also like: [Artist Pacita Abad’s trapuntos on immigrant experience to be exhibited at the Frieze London 2019](#)

These include a few of her most recognizable paintings like “L.A. Liberty” from her “Immigrant Experience” series from 1983 to 1995 that highlight the rising multiculturalism of the 1990s. Abad, who became a US citizen in 1994, created this trapunto painting after a visit to Ellis Island, lamenting a lack of representation of the immigration story of Asians, Latin Americans, and Africans.



“L.A. Liberty” (1992) Photo from the Pacita Abad Art Estate

“She set out to challenge and correct how representation is constructed in the civic sphere. In a kaleidoscopic explosion of color and pattern, Pacita replaces the neoclassical European icon of freedom and justice in America with a brown-skinned woman, modeled off herself and her friends,” reads a press release about the upcoming exhibit.

Free museum admissions, workshops, and performances

To celebrate its opening on Oct. 21, SF MoMA is offering free admission from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., as well as art workshops and live performances.

Taking a page from Abad’s oeuvre, Filipino-American artist Roseli Ilano will teach participants how to embroider beads, buttons, textiles, and shells onto canvases painted by muralist Monica Magtoto. There will also be live performances from the non-profit arts organization KULARTS featuring traditional Filipino musical instrument kulintang and a string ensemble known as rondalla.

You may reserve your tickets on their [website](#). [“Pacita Abad” at SF MoMA](#) will be on view until January 28, 2024.

You may also like: [Undiscovered SF block party to celebrate 50 years of hip hop](#)

The opening also coincides with the Undiscovered Block Party, featuring emerging artists and merchants celebrating San Francisco’s South of Market (SoMa) Pilipinas. This is already the third and final leg of the creative market/block party that began in August. SoMa Pilipinas was officially recognized in 2016 as the city’s Filipino Cultural District.