

PRESS RELEASE

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Press Contact

Rachel Eggers
Associate Director of Public Relations
rachele@seattleartmuseum.org
206.654.3151

SEATTLE ART MUSEUM (SAM) TEMPORARY CLOSURE AT ALL THREE SITES EXTENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

SEATTLE, WA - The Seattle Art Museum (SAM) announced today the temporary closure of its three sites—the Seattle Art Museum, the Asian Art Museum, and the PACCAR Pavilion at the Olympic Sculpture Park—is extended under further notice, in order to support Seattle’s efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19 and safeguard the health and safety of the community. Further operational and programmatic updates will be announced as the museum continues to monitor the evolving situation.

The Seattle Art Museum, the Asian Art Museum, and the PACCAR Pavilion at the Olympic Sculpture Park have been closed since March 12. The sculpture park remains open and free to the public, with SAM asking that visitors closely follow social distancing guidelines, staying six feet away from other park visitors. The SAM Shop, SAM Gallery, TASTE Café, the Education Resource Center, and all libraries also remain closed. All museum events are currently canceled or postponed through May 10.

SAM has continually followed the recommendations of US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Public Health Seattle & King County, as well as directives from Governor Inslee. The museum is committed to minimizing the impacts of the closure on its staff. SAM will continue to pay all full-time, part-time regular, and part-time variable staff their regular wages through April, and it will continue to assess the various scenarios possible in the months ahead.

During the temporary closure, the museum has launched Stay Home with SAM to continue to connect its visitors to art, sharing videos, interviews, art-making activities, and art news. Highlights include digital experiences and art-making activities for the recently opened show Georgia O’Keeffe: Abstract Variations, selections from the long-running Object of the Week blog series, videos from the My Favorite Things series, and other stories including the most recent iteration of SAM’s education program, Design Your [Neighbor]Hood.

Visitors who have a ticket to the museum or for an event which has been canceled or postponed may exchange their ticket or receive a refund on request. Due to staffing limits during the museum’s temporary closure, SAM’s Customer Service Center will be unable to check voicemails regularly, but visitors can contact customerservice@seattleartmuseum.org with any requests or questions.

ABOUT SEATTLE ART MUSEUM

As the leading visual art institution in the Pacific Northwest, SAM draws on its global collections, powerful exhibitions, and dynamic programs to provide unique educational resources benefiting the Seattle region, the Pacific Northwest, and beyond. SAM was founded in 1933 with a focus on Asian art. By the late 1980s the museum had outgrown its original home, and in 1991 a new 155,000-square-foot downtown building, designed by Venturi, Scott Brown & Associates, opened to the public. The 1933 building was renovated and rededicated as the Asian Art Museum in 1994, and it reopened on February 8, 2020 following an extensive renovation and expansion. SAM’s desire to further serve its community was realized in 2007 with the opening of two stunning new facilities: the nine-acre Olympic Sculpture Park (designed by

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1300 First Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101
206.625.8900
seattleartmuseum.org



Weiss/Manfredi Architects)—a “museum without walls,” free and open to all—and the Allied Works Architecture designed 118,000-square-foot expansion of its main, downtown location, including 232,000 square feet of additional space built for future expansion. The Olympic Sculpture Park and SAM’s downtown expansion celebrated their tenth anniversary in 2017.

From a strong foundation of Asian art to noteworthy collections of African and Oceanic art, Northwest Coast Native American art, European and American art, and modern and contemporary art, the strength of SAM’s collection of approximately 25,000 objects lies in its diversity of media, cultures, and time periods.