

The Museum of Modern Art

MoMA PRESENTS A HELEN FRANKENTHALER INSTALLATION IN THE MARRON FAMILY ATRIUM IN FALL 2025

Helen Frankenthaler: A Grand Sweep

November 18, 2025–February 8, 2026

Floor 2, The Donald and Catherine Marron Family Atrium

NEW YORK, July 29, 2025—The Museum of Modern Art presents ***Helen Frankenthaler: A Grand Sweep***, an installation of five paintings by the artist in the Museum’s Donald and Catherine Marron Family Atrium. On view from November 18, 2025, through February 8, 2026, this installation draws from MoMA’s extraordinary holdings of Frankenthaler’s paintings. Spanning over three decades, this presentation marks the artist’s first monographic moment at the Museum since her 1989 retrospective. *Helen Frankenthaler: A Grand Sweep* is organized by Samantha Friedman, Curator, Department of Drawings and Prints, with Elizabeth Wickham, Curatorial Assistant, Department of Painting and Sculpture.

“The scale of the Marron Family Atrium allows us to foreground the ambition that defined Frankenthaler’s work,” says Friedman. “This focused group of key works from MoMA’s collection traces the arc of her painting practice, highlighting key moments within her continual innovation.”

Ranging from the 1950s through the 1980s, the installation offers a succinct exploration of Frankenthaler’s pioneering contributions to postwar American painting. Anchoring the installation is *Toward Dark* (1988), a recent acquisition generously gifted by the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation that exemplifies the artist’s expressive gesture and compositional boldness. Paintings from previous decades set the stage for this late nocturne; among the other works on view is *Jacob’s Ladder* (1957), which Frankenthaler described as developing “into shapes symbolic of an exuberant figure and ladder,” leading her to name it after a favorite work in El Museo Nacional del Prado, José de Ribera’s *Jacob’s Dream* (1639). The installation also includes *Chairman of the Board* (1971), a work that signals the artist’s confident monumentality and compositional ambition; for her, this painting “was about a grand sweep...I had the basic idea in my head—I knew how the lines would dance in. I felt sure of myself.”

This presentation invites visitors to experience the depth, evolution, and enduring power of Frankenthaler’s art. With this exhibition, MoMA embraces the scale and ambition of her vision, offering an immersive encounter with her practice in one of the Museum’s most dramatic spaces.

AUDIO GUIDE:

MoMA

11 West 53 Street
New York, NY 10019

Explore key moments in Helen Frankenthaler's career with audio commentaries from the artist and the exhibition's curator. Through a selection of archival audio, listeners can hear directly from Frankenthaler as she discusses her process through the years. From her signature "soak-stain" technique and how she moved paintings off the easel and onto the floor, to the sense of "limitlessness" she sought to create in her work. Available free of charge at moma.org/audio and in MoMA's guide on the Bloomberg Connects app.

PROGRAMMING:

Drop-in Drawing

Friday, January 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 from 5:30–7:30 p.m.
Floor 2, Atrium

Explore artworks through drawing in this relaxed drop-in session for all ages. Materials and seating are provided. Participation is open to all, with no experience, ability, or reservations required. Drawing prompts will be available in English and Spanish. In addition to self-guided drawing prompts, this session will feature short, artist-led demos/lessons throughout the evening.

Drop-In Drawing is part of [UNIQLO Friday Nights](#), when MoMA is open late every Friday night, and admission is free for all New York State residents!

SPONSORSHIP:

Support for the exhibition is provided by the Annual Exhibition Fund. Leadership contributions to the Annual Exhibition Fund, in support of the Museum's collection and collection exhibitions, are generously provided by Sue and Edgar Wachenheim III, the Eyal and Marilyn Ofer Family Foundation, the Noel and Harriette Levine Endowment, Jerry Speyer and Katherine Farley, Alice and Tom Tisch, the Marella and Giovanni Agnelli Fund for Exhibitions, Eva and Glenn Dubin, Mimi Haas, the William Randolph Hearst Endowment Fund for Photography, The David Rockefeller Council, the Kate W. Cassidy Foundation, The Contemporary Arts Council of The Museum of Modern Art, Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz, Kenneth C. Griffin, The International Council of The Museum of Modern Art, Marie-Josée and Henry R. Kravis, and Ronald S. and Jo Carole Lauder. Major funding is provided by The Sundheim Family Foundation.

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PRESS CONTACTS:

Olivia Oramas, olivia.oramas@moma.org
Press Office, pressoffice@moma.org

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