



PRESS RELEASE

Amherst College

Mead
Art Museum

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**BAMPFA Premieres Groundbreaking Exhibition
Organized by Mead Art Museum at Amherst College That Examines
the Role of Science in Mid-Century Art**

On View at the University of California, Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific
Film Archive: November 7, 2018–March 3, 2019
On View at Mead Art Museum at Amherst College: March 28–June 2, 2019

***Dimensionism* Illuminates Untold Story of “Scientific Revolution”
Among Leading European and American Artists**



(Berkeley, CA) April 16, 2018—This fall, the University of California, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive ([BAMPFA](#)) presents the premiere of a touring exhibition that explores the influence of scientific discovery on some of the twentieth century’s most celebrated artists. Organized by the [Mead Art Museum](#) at Amherst College, **Dimensionism: Modern Art in the Age of Einstein** is the first exhibition to highlight the untold story of the “Dimensionist Manifesto”—a proclamation authored by Hungarian poet Charles Sirató in 1936 and endorsed by such artistic luminaries as **Alexander Calder, Marcel Duchamp, Joan Miró, László Moholy-Nagy, Sophie Taeuber-Arp**, and others—which called for an artistic response to the era’s groundbreaking scientific discoveries. Featuring more than seventy artworks by the Manifesto’s signatories and their contemporaries, the exhibition illuminates remarkable connections between the scientific and artistic revolutions that shaped the twentieth century.

Dimensionism features new scholarship on the influence of science on European and American artists of the 1930s, who were active at a time when mass media was exposing the general public to radical new developments in scientific theory. Inspired by new conceptions of time and space engendered by physics, mathematics, astronomy, and microbiology, an emerging avant-garde movement sought to expand the “dimensionality” of modern art. These artists engaged with scientific concepts to advance bold new forms of creative expression, from the fourth-dimension of space-time embodied by Calder’s free-moving mobiles to new perceptions of the cosmos evoked by Noguchi’s lunar landscapes.

Curated by Vanja Malloy, the Mead’s curator of American art, **Dimensionism** brings together paintings, sculptures, prints, and photographs from private and museum collections, along with poetry and other ephemera associated with the Dimensionist movement. More than 36 artists are

represented in the exhibition, including many of the Manifesto's original signatories as well as other prominent artists—such as **Helen Lundeberg, Barbara Hepworth, Man Ray, Isamu Noguchi, Wolfgang Paalen, Pablo Picasso, Yves Tanguy,** and many others—who drew inspiration from science.

"This unprecedented exhibition invites visitors to reconsider work by some of the most important artists of the twentieth century in a fresh historical framework that emphasizes their engagement with the world of science—a powerful influence on the trajectory of modern art that has been largely overlooked until now," said Malloy. "By illuminating this forgotten history, **Dimensionism** reveals that major swaths of avant-garde art can never fully be understood unless contextualized within the social and scientific upheavals that shaped them."

An illustrated 331-page exhibition catalog, edited by Malloy, provides the first in-depth scholarship on the Dimensionist Manifesto and the relationship between modern art and science more generally. The catalog includes new essays by Malloy; Oliver A. I. Botar from the University of Manitoba; Linda Dalrymple Henderson from the University of Texas at Austin; and Gavin Parkinson from the Courtauld Institute of Art. Published and distributed by the MIT Press, the catalog is available to purchase at the Mead Art Museum and BAMPFA.

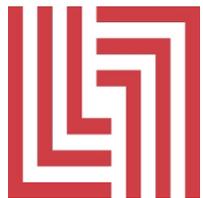
"We are delighted to partner with our friends at the Mead in premiering their exceptional exhibition here in Berkeley, where our visitors will have the opportunity to rediscover an important passage of modern art history with a truly outstanding selection of artwork—including multiple works from our own collection," said BAMPFA Director and Chief Curator Lawrence Rinder, who is overseeing the BAMPFA presentation of **Dimensionism**. "As the visual arts center for one of America's leading research universities, BAMPFA is an ideal venue to launch an exhibition that celebrates the spirit of scholarly and creative exchange between the worlds of art and science."

Support

This exhibition is made possible through support from the Henry Luce Foundation and the Terra Foundation for American Art.



HENRY LUCE
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TERRA

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Above

Joan Miró, *Composition*, 1937. Oil on composition board. 47 3/4 x 35 3/4 inches (121.3 x 90.8 cm).
University of California, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive; Gift of Julian J. and Joachim

Jean Aberbach. © Successió Miró / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York / ADAGP, Paris 2018.
Photo: Jonathan Bloom.

BAMPFA Visitor Information

Address

2155 Center Street, Berkeley, CA 94720

Hours

Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Fridays and Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

\$13 general admission

\$11 non-UC Berkeley students, disabled, 65+

FREE BAMPFA members; UC Berkeley students, faculty, staff; 18 & under; one adult per child 13 & under

Information

bampfa.org

(510) 642-0808

Social Media

facebook.com/bampfa

twitter.com/bampfa

instagram.com/bampfa

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Mead Art Museum Visitor Information

Address

41 Quadrangle Drive, Amherst College

Amherst, Ma., 01002

Academic Year Hours

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays, 9 a.m. to Midnight

Fridays, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Always FREE and open to all

Information

Amherst.edu/mead

(413) 542-2335

Social Media

[Facebook.com/meadartmuseum](https://facebook.com/meadartmuseum)

[Twitter.com/meadartmuseum](https://twitter.com/meadartmuseum)

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About BAMPFA

An internationally recognized arts institution with deep roots in the Bay Area, the University of California, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA) is a forum for cultural experiences that transform individuals and advance the local, national, and global discourse on art and film. BAMPFA is UC Berkeley's premier visual arts venue, presenting more than 450 film screenings, scores of public programs, and up to twenty exhibitions annually. With its vibrant and eclectic programming, BAMPFA

inspires the imagination and ignites critical dialogue through art, film, and other forms of creative expression.

The institution's collection of more than 19,000 works of art dates from 3000 BCE to the present day and includes important holdings of Neolithic Chinese ceramics, Ming and Qing Dynasty Chinese painting, Old Master works on paper, Italian Baroque painting, early American painting, Abstract Expressionist painting, contemporary photography, and Conceptual art. BAMPFA's collection also includes more than 17,500 films and videos, including the largest collection of Japanese cinema outside of Japan, impressive holdings of Soviet cinema, West Coast avant-garde film, and seminal video art, as well as hundreds of thousands of articles, reviews, posters, and other ephemera related to the history of film.

About The Mead Art Museum

Named for its founder, William Rutherford Mead (an 1867 graduate of Amherst College and a partner in the storied architectural firm of McKim, Mead & White), the Mead holds the art collection of Amherst College, celebrated for its American and European paintings, Mexican ceramics, Tibetan scroll paintings, English paneled room, ancient Assyrian carvings, Russian avant-garde art, West African sculpture, and Japanese prints.

The Mead is situated in the vibrant Five Colleges academic community of western Massachusetts, and serves as a laboratory for interdisciplinary research and innovative teaching involving original works of art. Eight galleries feature regularly changing exhibitions and installations spanning a wide range of historical periods and artistic media.