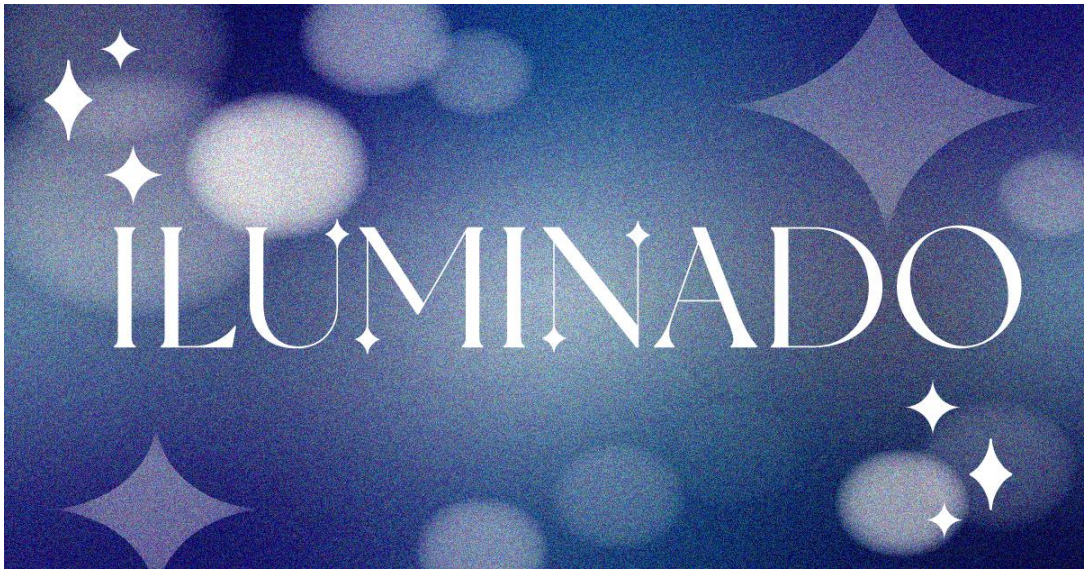
MONTEREY MUSEUM OF ART
559 Pacific Street, Monterey, CA 93940 | montereyart.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Monterey Museum of Art Presents

Iluminado 2026

A Collaborative Installation

with Artist-in-Residence Anne Ylvisaker

This unique initiative is part of MMA's 2026 *Iluminado* season of art, community, and light. The collaborative installation develops throughout its run with community-submitted dreams and memories. *Rooms of Possibility* also features work by young Boys and Girls Club artists in MMA's *Luminaries* program, who work alongside professional artist Anne Ylvisaker.

MONTEREY, CA — [September 16, 2026] — The centerpiece of Monterey Museum of Art's 2026 *Iluminado* season, *Rooms of Possibility* opens as an evolving installation by Monterey artist and author Anne Ylvisaker. The experiential art room opens October 23, 2026, and runs through January 24, 2027. Created in collaboration with museum visitors, *Rooms of Possibility* invites the guests to consider the role dreams and collective memory play in the creative process. Community participation helps to make the work unfold in unimagined ways.

WHAT ARE THE ILUMINADO AND LUMINARIES SERIES ABOUT?

Iluminado is MMA's annual season of art, community, and light, and a beloved part of the museum's Art Connecting Community initiative. The season brings together an artist installation, free admission in December, interactive programming, artmaking, and community partnerships to explore themes of light, memory, reflection, and connection. Visitors can participate in Glow and Flow Yoga, Winter Art Market, Creative Grounds, an Arts and Healing Sound Bath and more! Stay tuned for dates and details.

Luminaries, presented in tandem with *Iluminado*, is a partnership with young artists. The program showcases artwork by youth across Monterey County, highlighting creative projects developed through mentorship and collaboration with professional artists. This season, MMA is delighted to share that students from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Monterey County will join the creative festivities. Artwork created by *Luminaries* participants will be added to the installation as the season continues.

ANNE YLVISAKER'S *ROOMS OF POSSIBILITY*

At the center of the gallery, a life-sized paper mâché sculpture of the artist reclines, dreaming and pondering. Visitors are invited to "whisper" their own dreams and memories to her by writing them on slips of paper and tucking them into her ear. Ylvisaker retrieves these contributions and turns them into paintings and poems that appear on the gallery walls throughout the run; as a result, the installation looks different with every visit.

In the museum's adjacent Flux Gallery, a cozy Makerspace invites visitors to design postcards inspired by the work on view, by the collected dreams and memories, or by other artwork already created by other visitors. New postcards are created weekly throughout the run, encouraging repeat visits. Community contributions are also added to a hanging mobile, creating a growing collaborative work between the artist and the public.

"*Rooms of Possibility* reflects MMA's mission to connect community through art. The project aligns beautifully with the annual *Iluminado* and *Luminaries* season. By engaging youth and Museum visitors, creativity is explored in a uniquely interactive way that inspires thoughtfulness and conversation." — Corey Madden, Executive Director

ABOUT THE ARTIST



Anne Ylvisaker is a Monterey, California artist and author whose art and writing are complementary practices embedded in storytelling. Her visual art and literary works explore collective memory, family history, community, and place. Her recent site-specific installation, Lánsdottir, examined her matriarchal family heritage through an imagined landscape and inspired both an animated short film and a documentary about friendship and art. Her forthcoming picture book, *How to Wonder* (Viking, 2027), explores the art of doing nothing.

IN THE ARTIST'S WORDS

> *"I have a recurring dream. I'm in my house and discover a door to a room I didn't know existed. I enter and sense possibility beyond my known reality. It's thrilling. This is what the creative process is for me—opening doors to rooms of dreams, memories, and the expansive unknown."* — Anne Ylvisaker

STORY HIGHLIGHTS/ANGLES

- A living installation: a whispered secret becomes a painting, a poem, and a public artwork over the course of a season.
- Educational Value: Monterey County Boys & Girls Club students co-create, building youth-made work inside the show.
- Art Connecting Communities: *Iluminado* is MMA's community-first season—with free admission, and participatory artmaking and events; it represents the Museum's Art Connecting Community initiative. This season *Iluminado* and *Luminaries* are featured alongside concurrent exhibitions *Rex Ray: We Are All Made of Light* and *Born of the Bear Dance: Dugan Aguilar's Photographs of Native California.*
- Historical Significance: Participatory art, art installations, community-based artwork, Mail Art
- Local voices: what Monterey County residents and Boys & Girls Club students whispered into the sculpture's ear. See how it shapes the work on the walls.

ALSO ON VIEW AT MMA

Rex Ray: We Are All Made of Light

Guest curated by Cydney Payton and Griff Williams

August 27, 2026, until January 17, 2026

Rex Ray: We Are All Made of Light features multimedia American artist Rex Ray (1956–2015), best known for his innovative and subversive pop aesthetic. Drawing inspiration from mid-century modernism, Dada, the decorative arts, Fluxus, Pop Art, low-fi zines, and mail-art culture, Ray became a leading figure in both graphic design and fine art. He is especially known for his large-scale mixed-media collage and tour posters for artists including the Rolling Stones, R.E.M., Radiohead, and David Bowie. MMA presents this exhibition as the first museum retrospective of Ray's work.

Born of the Bear Dance: Dugan Aguilar's Photographs of Native California

Curated by Drew Heath Johnson

September 10 – December 20, 2026

Born of the Bear Dance: Dugan Aguilar's Photographs of Native California presents the work of Native documentary photographer Dugan Aguilar. Spanning more than three decades, Aguilar's photographs highlight the enduring presence, cultural traditions, and lived experiences of Indigenous communities across California and Nevada. Aguilar documented ceremonies, gatherings, landscapes, and everyday moments with intimacy and respect. Through visual storytelling rooted in community, Aguilar captures the relationships between people, place, spirituality, and cultural memory. This exhibition celebrates contemporary Indigenous life while honoring Aguilar's lasting contribution to California photography and Indigenous visual culture.

Born of the Bear Dance: Dugan Aguilar's Photographs of Native California is organized by the Oakland Museum of California and curated by Drew Heath Johnson. Major support is provided by the Henry Luce Foundation.

LAND AND PEOPLE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Monterey Museum of Art (MMA) extends its respect to the Esselen and Rumsen/Rumsien Ohlone Tribes, on whose ancestral homeland the Museum stands. MMA also recognizes the Chalon, Mutsun, and Salinan Tribes, whose unceded lands encompass much of what is now Monterey County. In alignment with our mission to inspire creativity, connect communities, and celebrate the stories of California art, MMA acknowledges and honors these communities, who have cared for and cultivated the Monterey Peninsula for millennia.

The Museum recognizes that our collection and exhibitions are inherently tied to the Indigenous land on which they were created, as California's landscape has long served as inspiration for generations of artists and creatives. MMA honors the Chalon, Esselen, Mutsun, Rumsen/Rumsien

Ohlone, and Salinan Tribes—alongside all California tribes, past, present, and future—for their enduring connection and lasting impact on our shared lands and waters.

To learn more about the Indigenous lands we inhabit, visit https://native-land.ca/.

Scan the QR code to learn more.

Chalon (SHAH-lon)
Esselen (EH-seh-len)
Ohlone (oh-LO-nee)
Mutsun (MUHT-suhn)
Rumsen (ROOM-sen)
Salinan (sah-LEE-nan)

ABOUT MONTEREY MUSEUM OF ART

Monterey Museum of Art (MMA) inspires creativity, connects communities, and celebrates the stories of California art.

MMA is grounded in the art of place—the dynamic relationship between creative vision and the landscapes, communities, and ideals that shape it. From our extraordinary vantage point on the Monterey Peninsula, we present California art that inspires our community and attracts visitors from around the world. As the only museum devoted to collecting the art of our region, we steward iconic works that reflect and shape California's evolving cultural identity. Beyond our region, we champion artists across the state, situating Monterey County within the broader story of California art—past, present, and future.

Connect with MMA on Facebook and Instagram
@montereyart

Monterey Museum of Art
559 Pacific Street
Monterey, CA 93940
Open Thursday – Sunday 11:00 am – 5:00 pm

www.montereyart.org

VISITOR INFORMATION

MMA Pacific Street hours
Open Thursday - Sunday
11:00 am - 5:00 pm

Located across from historic Colton Hall in Old Monterey, the Museum features galleries devoted to exhibitions of American and California painting, photography and contemporary art. Wheelchair access is available at the sculpture park entrance located between Pacific and Calle Principal Streets.

Museum Admission

Adults: $15

Free Admission:

- Students w/ID
- Active Military w/ID*
- 18 years and under
- MMA Members
- Museums for All SNAP Participants w/EBT**
- NARM, ROAM, and AAM Members

*Active members of the military and their families receive free admission.
**Museums for All – Individuals and families presenting a CalFresh/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card, and a valid form of photo ID receive free admission for up to a group of four.
Bicyclists: Receive 50% off Museum admission on Thursday when you show us your helmet. Excludes special programs and events.

Iluminado is on view October 23, 2026, through January 24, 2027, at the Monterey Museum of Art, 559 Pacific Street, Monterey, CA.

December admission is free for the *Iluminado* season.

This season, MMA's exhibitions explore how art can reflect our experiences, connect us to one another, and make space for many perspectives. The Makerspace invites you to continue that conversation through artmaking. Look closely, experiment, and respond to the artwork around you.

Exhibition-specific prompts are provided to guide your participation. Visit montereyart.org for hours, programs, and updates as the installation evolves.

MEDIA CONTACT

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