

MONTEREY MUSEUM OF ART

559 Pacific Street, Monterey, CA 93940 | montereyart.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monterey Museum of Art Presents
Big Weekend

Monterey Museum of Art Invites You to Experience Big Weekend—Creativity, Community, Inspiration, and Family Fun!

Monterey, CA (SEPT 30, 2026) — Did you know that Monterey Museum of Art (MMA) is hosting another **Big Weekend** with free family-friendly activities? Throughout the year, MMA invites visitors of all ages to discover more of what makes the Museum a vibrant community destination. With a full lineup of education and public programs, MMA inspires curiosity, creativity, and connection. From sketching in the galleries and curator talks, to docent-led tours and family activities, MMA offers engaging ways for audiences to experience art.

Nicole Jonsson, Manager of Education and Public Programs at MMA, explains: “MMA designs programs to meet the needs and comfort levels of the community—to meet people where they are. You don’t have to be an expert to come to the museum! MMA provides emotional and intellectual engagement with different levels of interactives. Immersion equals emotional and intellectual connection, not just hands-on activities.”

MMA supports visitors in engaging with art at their own comfort level and depth, building lasting curiosity through layered engagement like using reflection prompts, artmaking, take-home resources, workshops, and talks. Programs are designed to welcome every generation and make art approachable, inspiring, and memorable.



Big Weekend is a highlight of every season and includes a free, community celebration. This Season's Big Weekend starts Friday, October 2, 2026 at 5 p.m. and continues through Sunday, October 4, 2026, with programming that invites visitors to explore the Museum together. Guests can enjoy artmaking activities, gallery experiences, and a lively atmosphere designed to welcome first-time visitors, longtime supporters, and families looking for an enriching weekend outing.

- First Friday: Friday, October 2, 2026 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM
- Free Family Fun Day: Saturday, October 3, 2026 from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM
- Sketching in the Galleries: Saturday, October 3, 2026 from 12:00 to 2:00 PM
- The Big Weekend Members' Morning: an MMA Member Benefit on Sunday, October 4, 2026 from 10:00 to 11:00 AM
- Exhibition Insights Tour: Sunday, October 4, 2026 and Every Sunday, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
- Free Sunday: All-day Sunday, October 4, 2026

Additional MMA offerings include:

- Sketching in the galleries, designed to encourage close looking and creative response.
- Curator talks that offer deeper insight into exhibitions and the stories behind the art.
- Docent tours led by trained volunteers who help visitors connect with the collection and current exhibitions.
- Family programming that creates meaningful art experiences for visitors of all ages.
- The Chromatic Lounge—a unique visitor space inspired by the vibrant visual language, layered compositions, and joyful experimentation associated with Rex Ray. The lounge serves as a place to pause, engage, and deepen connection to the artwork and themes explored throughout the Fall Season.

Monterey Museum of Art's education programs are rooted in hands-on learning, critical thinking, and creative exploration, with opportunities for children, teens, families, educators, and adult visitors to engage with California art in meaningful ways. The Museum also offers school tours, adult tours, and free family events throughout the year to expand access to the arts across the community.

"We believe art is most powerful when people can experience it actively, whether that means sketching in the galleries, joining a docent tour, or spending the weekend with family and friends at the Museum."



--Roxanne O'Weger, Director of Education and Public Programs

For more information about upcoming programs, see the [Events page](#) or contact Monterey Museum of Art at education@montereyart.org or visit MMA's website.

Plan Your Visit

The Museum is located at 559 Pacific Street, Monterey, California, in the heart of historic downtown Monterey. Current public hours are Thursday through Sunday, 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Visitors are encouraged to check the Museum's website for the latest schedule, ticketing, and program updates.

Media Opportunity

Media are invited to cover special Museum events.

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 inspires creativity, connects communities, and celebrates the stories of California art.

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

MEDIA CONTACT

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