



SMART MUSEUM OF ART
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

5550 S. Greenwood Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60637
smartmuseum.uchicago.edu

WISE TO POWER

SMART TO THE CORE

Smart to the Core: Wise to Power

Part I, September 23, 2025 - February 22, 2026

Part II, March 24, 2026 - July 26, 2026

CHICAGO, IL — Why and how do people form political communities? How does political society organize our economic lives - and vice versa? And how as individuals do we navigate society? *Smart to the Core: Wise to Power* examines these questions by integrating visual art with foundational texts of modern social and political thought spanning nearly four centuries. Through a wide range of creative practices and philosophical perspectives, the exhibition addresses themes that are widely familiar yet deeply connected to specific political, economic, and cultural histories.

Wise to Power is the fourth installment of “Smart to the Core,” a series that fosters collaboration with the University of Chicago’s Core undergraduate curriculum and builds on the Museum’s commitment to explore the role of art across disciplines. Drawn primarily from the permanent collection, the exhibition project was organized by the Smart’s Feitler Center for Academic Inquiry together with faculty, instructors, and students from UChicago’s Social Sciences Core, “Power, Identity, Resistance.”

Featured artists include Ryuko (Takahisa, originally Hata, then Kawakatsu), Zhang Dali, Aaron Bohrod, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Alan Cohen, Amir H. Fallah, Lai Fong, Robert Frank, Lynn Gilbert, Art Green, Jack A. Jaffe, Barbara Jones-Hogu, Käthe Kollwitz, Otto Kuhler, Dorothea Lange, Eugene Medard, Haji Mousavir, Timothy H. O'Sullivan, Martin Parr, Thomas Rowlandson, Faith Ringgold, Don Sims, Thomas George Soper, Vivan Sundaram, Robert Thompson, Charles Frederick Tunnicliffe, Utagawa Kunisada II, Sergei Chekhonin, Amanda Williams, Nathan Wright, and Georgy Zelma.

With additional objects on display by Thomas Hobbes, on loan from The Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections, and Rose B. Simpson, courtesy of the Jack Shainman Gallery.



SUPPORT

Support for this exhibition has been provided by the Smart Museum's Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Endowment, Feitler Center for Academic Inquiry Fund, and the Museum's SmartPartners.

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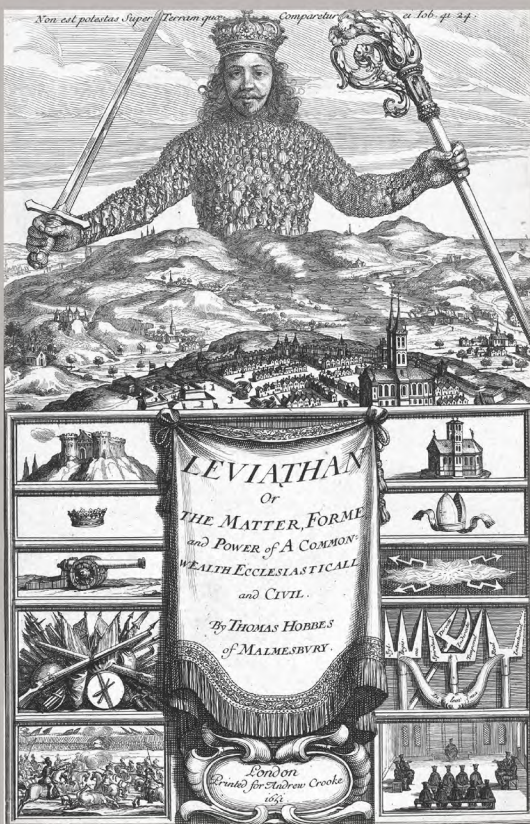
For all media inquiries:

Elisabeth Oster | ecoster@uchicago.edu

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Smart Museum of Art,
The University of Chicago.

About the Smart Museum of Art

The Smart Museum of Art at the University of Chicago is a site for rigorous inquiry and exchange that encourages the examination of complex issues through the lens of art objects and artistic practice. Through strong community and scholarly partnerships, the Museum incorporates diverse ideas, identities, and experiences into its exhibitions and collections, academic initiatives, and public programming. Admission is always free.

IMAGE CREDITS

Art Green, *Consider the Options, Examine the Facts, Apply the Logic* (originally title *the Undeniable Logician*), 1965, oil on canvas. The Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago, Purchase, Anonymous Gift, 1996.60

Abraham Bosse, *Frontispiece for "Leviathan, or The matter, forme, & power of a common-wealth ecclesiasticall and civill" by Thomas Hobbes*, 1651, first-edition book. The Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collection, University of Chicago, Gift of Joseph Halley Schaffner.

Dorothea Lange, *U.S. 101 - Migratory Pea Pickers near Santa Maria, CA, February 1936*, 1936, gelatin silver print. The Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago, Gift of the Estate of Lester and Betty Guttman, 2014.484