



**SMART MUSEUM OF ART**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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## Smart Museum of Art re-opens to the public

Limited capacity, reservations, new visit protocols in place for fall 2020 exhibitions *Take Care* and *Claudia Wieser: Generations*



The Smart Museum of Art will re-open on **Thursday, October 1, 2020** with special public hours and two new exhibitions that offer individuals and small groups of guests a space for reflection and contemplation. A site-specific installation from Berlin-based artist **Claudia Wieser** will greet visitors with layered references to the Roman forum and Bauhaus design, while the spacious collection-based exhibition *Take Care* seeks to unpack matters of care from the personal to the collective. In addition, the Smart Museum's Feitler Center for Academic Inquiry will maintain a flexible gallery space in support of in-person, on-site curricular and research visits by members of the University of Chicago's academic community.

The Smart Museum's updated visit guidelines include special hours: **Thursday–Sunday, 11 am–4 pm**. Capacity restrictions and reservations with staggered entry times will allow for social distancing and other safety measures, while universal face coverings will be required for all visitors and employees. Admission to the Smart Museum will remain free of charge, and appointments will be made available to anyone who can safely visit. Complete details can be found at [smartmuseum.uchicago.edu/visit](https://smartmuseum.uchicago.edu/visit).

“We are excited to open our doors and welcome visitors back to the Smart Museum once again,” said **Jill Sterrett**, Interim Director and Deputy Director of Museum Affairs & Strategic Impact. “I want to commend the entire Smart team for the care with which they have worked, in collaboration with the University of Chicago, to create and implement a re-opening plan that supports a safe museum space and campus environment.”

“In our ever-changing moment, addressing and interrogating what *care* means to ourselves and one another is more urgent than ever,” write *Take Care* curators **Jennifer Carty**, Associate Curator of Modern & Contemporary Art, and **Berit Ness**, Assistant Curator of Academic Initiatives. “This exhibition brings together an incredible roster of artists from vast perspectives that consider the many ways we give and receive care as well as the effects of its absence.”

In conjunction with the exhibitions, the Smart Museum is planning a comprehensive series of virtual programs and gatherings, such as a remote book club, an artist talk with Claudia Wieser, livestream performances, at-home artmaking activities for families, and object video chats featuring scholars and other partners. The schedule of virtual public programs will be updated on a regular basis at [smartmuseum.uchicago.edu/calendar](https://smartmuseum.uchicago.edu/calendar).

## **What's on**

### ***Take Care***

*October 1, 2020–March 21, 2021*

What does it mean to care for something, someone, or ourselves? *Take Care* seeks to unpack matters of care from the personal to the collective. Drawn largely from the Museum's permanent collection, the more than 50 artworks on view range from portrayals of familial relations and societal obligations to gestures of hospitality and ritual; from strategies of bearing witness and evoking empathy to explorations of networks of care and the results of their absences. Acknowledging the ways care can be specific and personal, central to the exhibition is a rotating presentation that invites members of the Smart Museum's communities to nominate artworks from the collection to be temporarily added to the exhibition.

**Artists include:** Sonja Alhäuser, Bethany Collins, Käthe Kollwitz, Deana Lawson, June Leaf, Kerry James Marshall, Gladys Nilsson, Suellen Rocca, Erika Rothenberg, Lorna Simpson, Sylvia Sleigh, Mierle Laderman Ukeles, Suzanne Valadon, Cathy Wilkes, and Yeeseokyoung, among others.

**Curators:** Jennifer Carty, Associate Curator of Modern & Contemporary Art, and Berit Ness, Assistant Curator of Academic Initiatives.

*Presented in the Richard and Mary L. Gray Gallery and the Elisabeth and William M. Landes Gallery.*

### ***Claudia Wieser: Generations***

*October 1–December 13, 2020*

This seven-year survey brings the distinctive, multifaceted practice of Berlin-based artist Claudia Wieser to Chicago for the first time. Wieser blurs the boundaries between art history, architecture and design. Influenced by the modernism of Hilma af Klint, Wassily Kandinsky and Paul Klee, who embraced spirituality as part of their aesthetic processes, Wieser broadens their ideals, using spatial installations to consider the coexistence of abstraction and physiological experience. This site-specific immersive exhibition, in which histories conflate and collide, offers a moment of contemplation on the past, present, and the futures we endeavor to imagine.

**Organized by** the Smart Museum of Art and the Bemis Center of Contemporary Arts, Omaha.

**Catalogue** available fall 2020.

**Curators:** Jennifer Carty, Associate Curator of Modern & Contemporary Art at the Smart Museum, and Rachel Adams, Chief Curator and Director of Programs at the Bemis Center.

*Presented in the Robert and Joan Feitler Gallery, the Joel and Carole Bernstein Gallery, and the Eunice Ratner Reception Gallery.*

## Museum as classroom

October 1–December 13, 2020

How can engaging with an artwork open new ways of thinking? By making connections between the Smart Museum’s collections and exhibitions, and the arguments, questions, and themes of courses across disciplines, the Museum’s Feitler Center for Academic Inquiry catalyzes and responds to the intellectual life of the University of Chicago. This presentation features clusters of artworks that were selected for individual courses at the University—ranging from “Diasporic Practices in Contemporary Art” to “Ancient Mediterranean Worlds.” While many classes are currently taught virtually, these displays offer students living locally an opportunity to view artwork in person and provides a glimpse of University teaching for all of our visitors. The artwork in this presentation will rotate as new objects are brought out of storage and added into the curriculum.

**Organized by** the Feitler Center for Academic Inquiry, Smart Museum of Art.

*Presented in the Janis Kanter and Thomas McCormick Gallery and the Edward A. and Inge Maser Gallery.*

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## Images

Imogen Cunningham, *The Unmade Bed*, 1957, Gelatin silver print. Smart Museum of Art, The University of Chicago, Gift of the Estate of Lester and Betty Guttman, 2014.247. © Imogen Cunningham Trust.

Claudia Wieser, *Untitled*, 2017, Acrylic, ink, and gold leaf on wood, three works. Courtesy of the artist and Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York and Aspen. © Claudia Wieser. Photo credit: Object Studies.

## 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. The Smart first opened in 1974. Admission is always free.

Support for *Take Care* and *Claudia Wieser: Generations* has been provided by the Museum’s SmartPartners.

### Smart Museum of Art

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### Special Hours

Thursday–Sunday, 11 am–4 pm  
Galleries will be closed on Thanksgiving Day.

### Admission

Free, however reservations are required.  
Complete details can be found at  
[smartmuseum.uchicago.edu/visit](http://smartmuseum.uchicago.edu/visit).