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Barbican announces a series of new exhibitions in collaboration with Fondation Giacometti

[Encounters: Giacometti](#)

May 2025 – May 2026



L: Alberto Giacometti holding *Three Men Walking*, 1940s, Archives Fondation Giacometti © Succession Alberto Giacometti / Adagp, Paris 2024 Photo: anonymous.

R: Alberto Giacometti in the studio, Before June 1951, Archives Fondation Giacometti © Succession Alberto Giacometti / Adagp, Paris 2024. Photo: Michel Sima.

From May 2025, the Barbican Centre, London, will partner with Fondation Giacometti, Paris, for a series of three groundbreaking exhibitions taking place over the course of a year. The exhibitions bring together the practices of three contemporary artists known for their originality and ingenuity, alongside historic works by the Swiss sculptor **Alberto Giacometti** (1901-1966). Staged in a newly established, intimate exhibition space within the Barbican, the series launches on 8 May 2025 with an exhibition by **Huma Bhabha**, followed by **Mona Hatoum** on 4 September 2025 and **Lynda Benglis** in February 2026.

Each artist will present a mix of pre-existing and new artworks which resonate with and at times respond directly to Giacometti's sculptures, opening up new intergenerational connections and dialogues. Following a period of deep engagement with Giacometti's work at Fondation Giacometti, each artist has been closely involved in the selection of works by the artist to include in their exhibition. It is the first time that Bhabha, Hatoum and Benglis's sculptures will be seen alongside Giacometti's works. Each iteration of this series will feature a different group of works by Giacometti including iconic pieces like the *Walking Man I* (1960) and *The Cage* (1950).

Giacometti is one of the most significant European sculptors of the 20th century, known for his distinctive, elongated sculptures which experiment with the human form. Some of the most stirring works in his oeuvre were created in the same post-war period in which the Barbican was built. Perceived sometimes as responding to the pain and devastation caused by the Second World

War, his works proposed a new perspective on humanity and the collective psyche. This radicality resonates with the utopian principles underpinning the establishment of the Barbican, which sought to explore a new way of thinking and being where the arts were regarded as vital and central to enriching modern living.

Visitors to these exhibitions will observe the exchanges between contemporary art practices and Giacometti's work that complicate simple interpretations of artistic influence and formal likeness. The invited artists have shared interests in death, fragmentation, the domestic, memory, trauma, the erotic, horror and humour – and manifest their preoccupations in vastly different ways through their own work. It is the exploration of these timeless and existential concerns that forms the connecting threads between the three living artists and Giacometti. Each exhibition considers what occurs at the meeting point of bodies of work that are deeply affective and emotive, responding to the anguish and despair of a wounded world.

Shanay Jhaveri, Head of Visual Arts at the Barbican, says: *“Continuing our commitment to expanding the possibilities of how the visual arts can be experienced at the Barbican, Encounters: Giacometti marks a significant new chapter. Through our partnership with the Fondation Giacometti, we are able to stage a series of exhibitions which explore the formal affinities and thematic resonances between the iconic works of Alberto Giacometti and three of today’s most extraordinary and important artists. While confronting not only the precariousness and vulnerability of our corporeal being, we hope that these ‘encounters’ remind us of a shared enduring humanity.”*

Émilie Bouvard, director of collections at the Fondation Giacometti, says: *“This collaboration with the Barbican Centre is a one-of-a-kind opportunity to confront Giacometti’s creation with this unique cultural space whose architecture owes so much to the 1950s. Remembering the past, it looks also towards the present, proving once again the fecundity of Giacometti’s creation for today’s living artists, on the solid grounds of human figure, mankind, dream and engagement.”*

Each of the three exhibitions will be £8 to visit and will take place in a new exhibition space within the Barbican. This exciting new space will be used flexibly for a range of purposes in the coming years, allowing the Barbican to continue offering a world-class experience for its visitors as it undergoes vital work on different areas of its building.

Generously supported by the Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation

ENDS

Notes to Editors

The new space was formerly the home of the Barbican Brasserie, which will be closing from 31 January 2025.

Press Information

For further information, images, or to arrange interviews, please contact:

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Press images available online

The image sheet is available on the [press room](#). Please contact the press team for high-res images.

Barbican Press Room

All Barbican Centre press releases, news announcements and the Communication team's contact details are listed on our [website](#).

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London, EC2Y 8DS www.barbican.org.uk

Dates

8 May to 10 August 2025: Encounters: Giacometti x Huma Bhabha

4 September 2025 to 11 January 2026: Encounters: Giacometti x Mona Hatoum

February – May 2026: Encounters: Giacometti x Lynda Benglis (exact dates of this exhibition to be announced in due course)

Tickets

Standard admission for each exhibition will be £8

Press Tickets

All press tickets will need to be booked 48 hours in advance by contacting a member of the Barbican's Visual Arts Press team at visualartspress@barbican.org.uk. Our inbox is monitored Monday to Friday, 10am – 6pm. Please let us know if you have any access requirements.

About The Fondation Giacometti

The Fondation Giacometti is a private institution and a state-recognized non-profit organization whose purpose is the preservation, dissemination, and promotion of Alberto Giacometti's oeuvre. As the sole legatee of Annette Giacometti, the artist's widow, the Fondation holds the largest collection of works by Alberto Giacometti in the world. The Fondation Giacometti is dedicated to conserving, enriching, and sharing this collection.

The Fondation Giacometti promotes Alberto Giacometti's oeuvre on an international level through exhibitions in French museums and abroad, the writing of a catalogue of the artist's authenticated works, the organization in various cultural events, and publication projects. The Fondation organizes the authentication committee for the artist's works, and handles the protection of his oeuvre in France and abroad.

In 2018, The Fondation Giacometti opened Giacometti Institute, located at 5 rue Victor Schoelcher (Paris 14), where it presents its exhibition, pedagogical, and research programs. The Fondation Giacometti is currently working toward opening the Alberto Giacometti Museum & School on the Esplanade des Invalides in the heart of Paris.

About Huma Bhabha

Huma Bhabha (b. 1962 Karachi, Pakistan) creates nuanced, formally inventive sculptures, drawings, and photographs that reinvent the figure and its expressive possibilities. Born in Karachi, Pakistan, Bhabha came to the United States in 1981 to attend the Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, from which she received her BFA in 1985. She later studied at the School of the Arts at Columbia University, New York, from which she received her MFA in 1989. The artist presently lives and works in Poughkeepsie, New York.

Recent solo exhibitions and installations of Bhabha's work have been held at Brooklyn Bridge Park, New York (2024; organized by Public Art Fund); M Leuven, Belgium (2023; traveled to MO.CO., Montpellier, France); Fundación Casa Wabi, Puerto Escondido, Mexico (2022–2023); Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, England (2020); Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston (2019); and The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (2018). Bhabha has also exhibited in prominent group exhibitions internationally, including the 22nd Biennale of Sydney (2020); 2019 Yorkshire Sculpture International, Wakefield, England; 56th Venice Biennale (2015); and the 2010 Whitney Biennial.

In 2022, Bhabha was elected as a National Academician by the The National Academy of Design, New York, and in 2023, she was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York. Her work is held in significant collections worldwide.

About Mona Hatoum

Mona Hatoum's poetic and political oeuvre is realised in a diverse and often unconventional range of media, including performance, video, photography, sculpture, installation and works on paper. Her work deals with issues of displacement, marginalisation, exclusion and systems of social and political control. Born into a Palestinian family in Beirut, Lebanon, Hatoum has lived in London since 1975, after the outbreak of the Lebanese Civil War prevented her from returning home. She studied at the Byam Shaw School of Art, London (1975-1979) and the Slade School of Fine Art, London (1979-1981).

Hatoum has participated in numerous international exhibitions, such as the Venice Biennale (1995 and 2005), Istanbul Biennial (1995 and 2011), Documenta, Kassel (2002 and 2017), Biennale of Sydney (2006), Sharjah Biennial (2007 and 2023) and Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art (2013).

Recent solo exhibitions include a major survey organised by Centre Pompidou, Paris (2015) that toured to Tate Modern, London and KIASMA, Helsinki (2016) and a large US survey initiated by the Menil Collection, Houston (2017) that travelled to the Pulitzer Arts Foundation, St Louis (2018). In September 2022, three solo exhibitions took place simultaneously in three different institutions in Berlin: Neuer Berliner Kunstverein (n.b.k.), Georg Kolbe Museum and KINDL – Centre for Contemporary Art.

Hatoum was awarded the Joan Miró Prize (2011), the 10th Hiroshima Art Prize (2017) and the prestigious Praemium Imperiale (2019) given by the Japan Art Association for her lifetime achievements in the field of sculpture. She was also the recipient of the 2020 Julio González Prize, Institut Valencià d'Art Modern - IVAM, Valencia, Spain.

About Lynda Benglis

Since the 1960s, Lynda Benglis (b. 1941, Lake Charles, Louisiana) has been celebrated for the free, ecstatic forms she has made that are simultaneously playful and visceral, organic and abstract. Benglis began her career in the midst of Postminimal art and has pushed the traditions of painting and sculpture into new territories throughout her career. Comprised of a variety of materials—from beeswax, latex, and polyurethane foam to later innovations with plaster, gold, vaporized metals, glass, ceramics, and paper—her works demonstrate an enduring fascination with process. The embrace of flowing forms, color, and sensual surfaces attests to her inventive and radical spirit. Benglis's experimental videos expand her interest of process to new media, featuring performative actions and using technological mediation to explore themes of physical presence, narcissism, sexuality, and gendered identity. Through her multifarious practice, Benglis continues a long-running investigation of the proprioceptive, sensory experiences of making and viewing her works.

Works by Benglis are held by major public collections, including The Art Institute of Chicago; Buffalo AKG Art Museum, New York; Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Dallas Museum of Art, Texas; Detroit Institute of Arts, Michigan; Harvard Art Museums, Cambridge, Massachusetts; High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.; Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin; The Jewish Museum, New York; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; Philadelphia Museum of Art, Pennsylvania; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Tate, London; and Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Benglis was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1975, an Australian Art Council Award in 1976, and two National Endowment for the Arts grants, in 1979 and 1990. In 2011, The College Art Association conferred the Distinguished Artist Award for Lifetime Achievement on Benglis and in 2012 she was inducted as a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 2014, she was honored at the New Museum Gala and at the Art Basel Miami Beach Women in the Arts. In 2017, Benglis received the International Sculpture Center Lifetime Achievement Award, in 2018, she received The Barnett and Annalee Newman Foundation Grant-Award, and in 2019, she was an Honoree at the Storm King Art Center Gala. In 2022, Benglis was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award, Women's Caucus for Art in New York. She holds honorary degrees from Tulane University and the University of Thessaloniki in Greece.

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About the Barbican

The Barbican is a catalyst for creativity, sparking possibilities for artists, audiences, and communities. We showcase the most exciting art from around the world, pushing traditional artistic boundaries to entertain and inspire millions of people, create connections, provoke

debate, and reflect the world we live in.

We are an international arts and events centre rooted firmly in our own neighbourhood, collaborating with local communities and putting the City of London on the map as a destination for everybody. Central to our purpose is supporting emerging talent and shaping opportunities that will accelerate the next generation of creatives.

As a not-for-profit, we rely on the generosity of individuals and organisations, including our principal funder the City of London Corporation. Every ticket purchased, donation made, and pound earned supports our arts and learning programme and enables the widest possible range of people to experience the joy of the arts.

Opened in 1982, the Barbican is a unique and audacious building, recognised globally as an architectural icon. As well as our theatres, galleries, concert halls and cinemas, we have a large conservatory with over 1,500 species of plants and trees, a library, conference facilities, public and community spaces, restaurants, bars, and a picturesque lakeside oasis.

We're proud to be the home of the [London Symphony Orchestra](#), and a London base of the [Royal Shakespeare Company](#). We regularly co-commission, produce and showcase the work of our other associates and partners including the [Academy of Ancient Music](#), [the BBC Symphony Orchestra](#), [Boy Blue](#), [Britten Sinfonia](#), [Cheek by Jowl](#), [Darbar Festival](#), [Doc'n Roll Film Festival](#), [Drum Works](#), [EFG London Jazz Festival](#), [Human Rights Watch Film Festival](#), [London Palestine Film Festival](#), [Serious](#), and [Trafalgar Entertainment](#).

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Barbican Art Gallery

Our visual arts programme embraces art, architecture, design, fashion, photography and film. Many of our exhibitions explore the interconnections between disciplines, periods and cultures, and aim to imagine the world in new ways. Designers, artists and architects are our collaborators in this process.

Our exhibitions are complemented by comprehensively researched catalogues and a full range of public events. In partnership with renowned museums and art galleries, many of our exhibitions travel to reach both national and international audiences.