

For immediate release

barbican

Barbican announces details of Huma Bhabha exhibition, the first in a series of new exhibitions in collaboration with Fondation Giacometti

[Encounters: Giacometti x Huma Bhabha](#)

Barbican Level 2

8 May – 10 Aug 2025

Press view: Tuesday 6 May, 10am-1pm

This exhibition series is realised in partnership with the [Kiran Nadar Museum of Art](#), New Delhi.



L: Alberto Giacometti, *Femme debout* [*Standing Woman*], 1957, Fondation Giacometti © Succession Alberto Giacometti / Adagp, Paris 2025

R: Huma Bhabha, *Mask of Dimitrios*, 2019. Image credit: Daniel Perez. Courtesy of the artist and David Zwirner Gallery

The Barbican presents a major new exhibition by artist Huma Bhabha, the first in a series of three groundbreaking exhibitions in partnership with Fondation Giacometti. *Encounters: Giacometti x Huma Bhabha* is the first time Huma Bhabha and Alberto Giacometti's works will be seen together. Subtitled *Nothing is Behind Us*, the exhibition is Bhabha's first at a public institution in London.

Inaugurating a new, intimate space within the Barbican, the sculptures in this show, drawing from Bhabha and Giacometti's oeuvres, will span nearly a century of artmaking, encompassing a range of media – plaster, bronze, terracotta – along with assemblage and found objects.

Amongst the works on display are iconic pieces by Giacometti such as *Walking Woman I* (1932) and *Walking Man I* (1960), as well as the tabletop sculpture *The Glade (Composition with nine figures)* (1950). This work, which visitors encounter on entering the exhibition, marked a turning point in Giacometti's practice and was borne of his desire, to create work that reflected people as he witnessed them on the street or squares, "coming and going...unconscious and mechanical... each having an air of moving on its own, quite alone."

Taking a prompt from Giacometti, Bhabha approaches the gallery space as if it were a street: sculptures are grouped to engender the feeling of a gathering, in which individuals potentially cross paths with one another. As visitors move through this convening, the ancient, modern and contemporary intersect, with both artists sharing a deep and enduring interest in the body as an embodiment of the traumas of our times. The Barbican Level 2 gallery becomes a landscape where fragmentary works lead onto a procession of ghostly and vulnerable figures that collectively speak to ongoing conflicts in which human life becomes collateral damage.

Bhabha presents existing works drawn from across her career, along with a new commission in iron, created especially for this exhibition. The public foyer outside the gallery also hosts four monumental painted and patinated bronze sculptures, recalling pre-modern effigies which Bhabha debuted at her Public Art Fund exhibition *Before The End* in Brooklyn Bridge Park in New York City in 2024, which are being shown in Europe for the first time. Of these, *Nothing Falls* and *Feel the Hammer* have been generously loaned by Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, New Delhi.

Bhabha's exhibition is followed by **Mona Hatoum** on 3 September 2025 and **Lynda Benglis** on 5 February 2026. The exhibitions bring together the practices of three contemporary artists known for their originality and ingenuity, alongside historic works by **Alberto Giacometti**. 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.

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: *"The pairing of Alberto Giacometti and Huma Bhabha's sculptures in the inaugural exhibition of the Encounters: Giacometti series, powerfully summons the repercussions of on-going conflicts on everyday life. Both artists through a shared grammar of form, have committed to try and represent the experience of violence on the human body, underscoring the temporal nature of the act of violence, its after-life, with brutal lingering effects. In the face of collapse - as the exhibition's title states - while 'nothing is behind us', Bhabha and Giacometti's empathetic presences remind us that loss creates intimate links between one another, where we are all bound by the shared dignity of endurance."*

Émilie Bouvard, director of collections at the Fondation Giacometti, says: *"It has been some time that we are aware of the beauty of the works by Huma Bhabha and their potential connection with Giacometti's sculptures. Shanay Jhaveri's idea and proposal to create this 'encounter' at the Barbican sounded both exciting and natural to us. The conception of the show with the artist has proved this feeling right."*

Kiran Nadar, Founder & Chairperson, Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA), says: *"At KNMA, we are committed to fostering global dialogues on contemporary art, and our ongoing partnership with the Barbican is a testament to this vision. Huma Bhabha's work challenges conventions, blurring the boundaries between time, space, and materiality. As she presents her first exhibition at a public institution in London, it is an honor to support and engage with artists like Bhabha, whose practice resonates deeply with the evolving narrative of art and identity."*

The *Encounters: Giacometti* series is realised in partnership with the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, New Delhi; with generous support from Blanca & Sunil Hirani Foundation, Tia Collection, and additional support from the Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Each of the three exhibitions will take place in a new exhibition space within the Barbican, formerly the home of the Barbican Brasserie, which closed on 10 February 2025. 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.

Press Information

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

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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

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

5 February to 24 May 2026: Encounters: Giacometti x Lynda Benglis

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 KNMA

Founded in 2010, Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA) is a pioneering private museum of modern and contemporary art in South Asia, with branches in New Delhi and Noida. The not-for-profit organization produces rigorous exhibitions, educational and public-focused programs, and publications. Through its rigorous and multiple programs, KNMA emphasises its commitment to institutional collaborations and support-networks for artists and creative communities, while extending its reach to diverse audiences. The museum houses a growing collection of more than 15,000 artworks from South Asia, with a focus on the historical trajectories of 20th century Indian art, alongside the experimental practices of young contemporaries. KNMA was established through the initiative of art collector and philanthropist Kiran Nadar and is supported by the Shiv Nadar Foundation. The new standalone building of KNMA is due to open in the next three to four years, near Delhi's Indira Gandhi international airport. www.knma.in

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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.