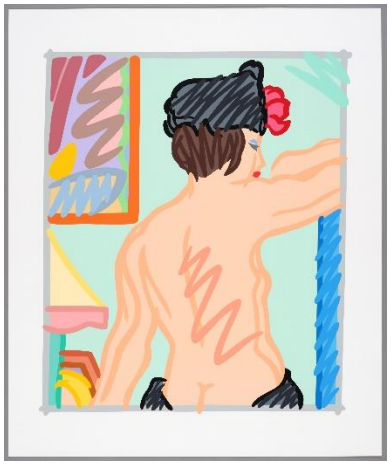
Palm Springs Art Museum

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PALM SPRINGS ART MUSEUM DEBUTS NEW EXHIBITION EXPLORING FEMALE BODIES IN CONTEMPORARY VISUAL CULTURE

The Female Form: Tom Wesselmann & Mickalene Thomas from the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation Opens This November





Palm Springs, CA (October 28, 2025) — Palm Springs Art Museum presents *Mapping the Female Body: Tom Wesselmann & Mickalene Thomas from the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation* on view from November 22, 2025, through April 6, 2026. Curated by Christine Vendredi, JoAnn McGrath Executive Director, the exhibition explores how two influential artists have portrayed the female nude and challenged its place in art history. Supported by the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation and the Harold & Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation, the show will open with a member preview on Friday, November 21, and a public opening on Saturday, November 22.

Bringing together different generations and perspectives, the exhibition reflects on how women's bodies are represented in visual culture, juxtaposing Wesselmann's iconic images of the female form from the 1960s and 1970s with Thomas' recent bold and layered portrayals of women of color.

The exhibition features a significant new work by Thomas *l'espace entre les deux,* shown only once at the 2025 IFPDA Print Fair in New York. Two large rooms constructed as a living collage of paper-pulp sculpture, collages, silkscreens, and three-dimensional cast paper works evoke the feeling of entering one of Thomas's iconic living rooms. Plants, lamps, carpeting, books and furniture made of paper in many forms inhabit all planes of the space. In Thomas's playful, investigatory approach

to material results in something akin to a living collage, which creates a new conversation with the selection of framed collages displayed within the space.

“By placing Wesselmann and Thomas in dialogue, the exhibition examines how artists from different backgrounds and eras address questions of power, representation, and agency,” said Christine Vendredi, JoAnn McGrath Executive Director of Palm Springs Art Museum. “This exhibition also reintroduces historical references and highlights lesser-known women artists, encouraging visitors to consider not just how women’s bodies have been depicted, but also who gets to shape those narratives.”

Wesselmann’s work captures the contradictions of an era defined by shifting cultural attitudes around gender and sexuality, blending glamour with critique in complex reflections on beauty, desire, and control. Thomas, a queer woman of color, reframes the tradition of the nude by representing women of color with strength, beauty, and confidence. Using rhinestones, vibrant color, and layered materials, she celebrates individuality and presence, drawing from both art history and popular culture.

“Growing up surrounded by art, I learned early on that the most powerful works are the ones that make us feel, make us question and reflect. *The Female Form: Tom Wesselmann & Mickalene Thomas* brings together two artists whose work has done just that for me, time and again,” said ARTnews Top 200 art collector, Jordan D. Schnitzer. “Bringing these two artists together in one exhibition is not about comparing or contrasting. It is about creating a conversation between eras, between perspectives, and between viewers.”

The Female Form: Tom Wesselmann & Mickalene Thomas from the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation Opens This November situates both artists within the broader legacy of female representation, from Renaissance traditions to contemporary reinterpretations, and offers visitors the opportunity to reflect on how perspectives of the female nude continue to evolve.

Image credits:

Tom Wesselmann*, Judy with Black Hat*, edition PP 1/5, 1997, screenprint, 50 7/8 x 42 7/8 x 1 1/2 in. Frame, 48 x 39 3/4 in. Sheet, 39 1/4 x 33 in. Image Credit line: Collection of the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation, Photography Credit: Aaron Wessling.

Mickalene Thomas, *Din avec la main dans le miroir et jupe rouge*, edition 47/50, 2024, hand-collaged silkscreen and archival print with embossment and glitter, 21 1/8 x 25 1/4 x 1 3/4 in. Frame Credit line: Collection of Jordan D. Schnitzer, Photography Credit: Aaron Wessling.

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About Palm Springs Art Museum

Palm Springs Art Museum is the largest cultural institution in the Coachella Valley. The flagship building, located in downtown Palm Springs, features compelling art exhibitions, a vast permanent collection, and the Annenberg Theater, all in a 150,000-square-foot, architecturally significant building. Five blocks away, the Palm Springs Art Museum Architecture and Design Center, Edwards Harris Pavilion, features exhibitions and programming that explore the rich topics of architecture and design. The museum's collection also contains two icons of modernist design: Frey House II (1962) on the mountainside behind the main building and Aluminaire House™ (1932) on museum grounds.

About The Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation

The Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation's contemporary art collection is one of the most notable in North America. The Foundation has shared its art with millions across the U.S. and internationally through groundbreaking exhibitions, publications, and programs. Founded by ARTnews Top 200 Collector Jordan D. Schnitzer—whose passion for art began in his mother's contemporary art gallery in Portland, Ore.—the Foundation has organized over 180 exhibitions from its collection and additionally loaned thousands of artworks to over 130 museums at no cost to the institutions. Schnitzer began collecting contemporary prints and multiples in 1988 and today is North America's foremost print collector. His Foundation's collection consists of thousands of works, including a wide variety of prints, sculptures, paintings, glass, and mixed media works.