

ADVANCE EXHIBITION SCHEDULE  
FALL 2016 – SPRING 2017

*Andy Warhol: Sunset*

August 19, 2016 – January 8, 2017



This presentation of *Sunset*, the unfinished 1967 film by Andy Warhol, showcases a rare work by the artist that was commissioned by John and Dominique de Menil for an ecumenical chapel at the 1968 San Antonio World's Fair. Warhol was asked to create a work of spiritual significance to be displayed within a contemplative space, a concept similar to what the de Menils were establishing for the Rothko Chapel. The film was virtually unknown until the Whitney

Museum of American Art and the Museum of Modern Art, New York, restored and re-released the work in 2000 as part of The Andy Warhol Film Project. Organized by Curator Michelle White, screenings of the 16mm film will be held in the east temporary gallery at 6pm every evening when the museum is open.

*Picasso The Line*

September 16, 2016 – January 8, 2017



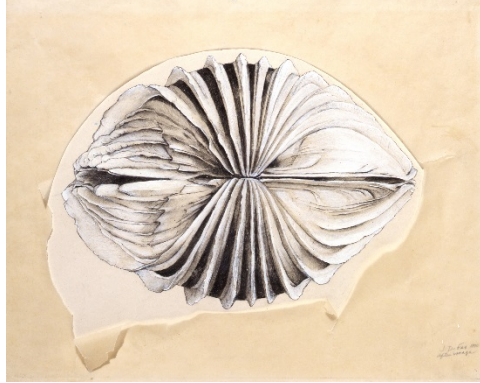
Supremely gifted as a draftsman and fascinated from an early age by the highly linear art of Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres, Pablo Picasso made line drawings at every stage of his career, adapting them to the dazzling variety of styles and themes he developed. *Picasso The Line* brings together more than 90 works in a full-scale exploration of this distinctive aspect of his art with works dating from 1901-02 through 1970. The show includes seldom-seen drawings by Picasso from the Menil's holdings, as well as works on loan that have never before been exhibited in the United States. Picasso's work convinced John and Dominique de Menil where other modern art had failed. Initially reluctant to engage with the art of their time, as Dominique stated, "The

reservations that at first tempered admiration vanished before the genius of the greatest artist of our time." Presented exclusively at the Menil Collection, *Picasso The Line* is organized by Picasso scholar Carmen Giménez, founding director of the Museo Picasso Málaga and organizer of the Guggenheim's *Picasso and the Age of Iron* (1993) and *Picasso Black and White* (2012-13). Clare

Elliott, Associate Curator at the Menil Collection, has overseen the exhibition on behalf of the museum.

### *Holy Barbarians: Beat Culture on the West Coast*

November 18, 2016 – March 12, 2017



The West Coast “Beat” generation emerged in California in the decades following the Second World War. Formed outside of the established museums, schools, and galleries in both Los Angeles and the Bay Area, the loosely affiliated group (including emerging gallerist and eventual Menil Founding Director Walter Hopps) took advantage of the region’s permissive atmosphere while exploring its darker elements. Alienated from mainstream post-war American society, they were skeptical of the optimistic conformity of the Eisenhower-

era. Sometimes imbued with an enigmatic spirituality, combining influences from jazz, poetry, and popular culture, the work of these artists features a diverse array of media emphasizing spontaneity and innovation over aesthetic or technical concerns. Organized by Associate Curator Clare Elliott, *Holy Barbarians: Beat Culture on the West Coast* will bring together approximately 30 powerful works on paper and assemblages from 1955 through 1970 featuring lesser-seen artists in the Menil Collection’s holdings, along with carefully selected loans, by Wallace Berman, Jay DeFeo, George Herms, Ed Kienholz, and others.

### *ReCollecting Dogon*

February 3 – July 9, 2017



Living in West Africa along the steep, rocky Bandiagara escarpment in present-day Mali, Dogon peoples – with their dynamic performances of masks, architecture, deftly carved sculptures, and rich cosmology – captured the imagination of Europeans and Americans during the early twentieth century. A large body of colonial literature, ethnographic fieldwork, exhibitions, films, and travel guides defines their prominent position in Western histories of the African continent. Organized by Curator of Collections Paul R. Davis, *ReCollecting Dogon* showcases approximately 25 arresting works of Dogon artistry acquired by John and Dominique de Menil from the 1950s through 1970s. Serving as counterpoints to the historical representations of Dogon peoples, the exhibition

features contemporary works by Malian artists Amahigueré Dolo and Alaye Kene Atô – shown for the first time in the United States – along with photographs by Walker Evans and Mario Carrieri, ethnographic audio recordings, and other archival documentation.

## ***Between Land and Sea: Artists of the Coenties Slip***

April 14 – August 6, 2017



*Between Land and Sea: Artists of the Coenties Slip* brings together examples of the early work of Chryssa (1993-2013), Robert Indiana (b. 1928), Ellsworth Kelly (1923-2015), Agnes Martin (1912- 2004), Lenore Tawney (1907-2007), and Jack Youngerman (b. 1926). These artists were among a group of intellectuals, writers, filmmakers, and poets living and working in the old seaport at the lower tip of Manhattan called the Coenties Slip in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

Distinguished by its views of the Brooklyn Bridge and its unique position between land and sea, the slip served as an important inspiration for the artists who frequently incorporated aquatic themes into their early work. The exhibition will feature 27

aesthetically distinct works, united by the artists' desire to locate new ways of thinking about abstraction. Curated by Michelle White, the exhibition draws heavily from the Menil's holdings and is augmented by important loans from private collections in Houston and the Lenore Tawney Foundation, New York.

### **Admission Information**

The Menil Collection is free to all visitors.

The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday, 11am – 7pm.

The museum is closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

### **Images:**

1. Film still from Andy Warhol, *Sunset*, 1967. 16mm film, color, sound, 33 minutes. © 2016 The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, PA, a museum of Carnegie Institute. All rights reserved. Film still courtesy The Andy Warhol Museum.
2. Pablo Picasso, *Self-portrait (Autoportrait)*, 1918. Charcoal and graphite on paper, 25 1/4 × 19 1/2 in. (64.2 × 49.4 cm). Musée national Picasso, Paris. © 2016 Estate of Pablo Picasso / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York. Photo: RMN-Grand Palais / Art Resource, NY.
3. Jay DeFeo, *After Image*, 1970. Graphite, gouache, and transparent acrylic on paper with cut and torn tracing paper, overlay: 10 7/8 × 13 3/4 in. (27.6 × 34.9 cm), primary support: 14 × 19 1/2 in. (35.6 × 49.5 cm). The Menil Collection, Houston, Gift of Glenn Fukushima in honor of the artist. © Estate of Jay DeFeo / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.
4. Dogon peoples. Staff or Lance, late 19th-20th century (*detail*). Mali, Douentza Circle, said to be from Dianvéli. Iron, 35 × 5 1/2 × 1/4 in. (88.9 × 14 × 0.6 cm). The Menil Collection, Houston.
5. Chryssa, *Cycladic Book No. 8*, 1955. Terracotta, 16 5/8 × 8 3/8 × 1 7/8 in. (42.2 × 21.3 × 4.8 cm). The Menil Collection, Houston. © Chryssa

### **About the Menil Collection**

A legacy of the philanthropists John and Dominique de Menil, the Menil Collection opened in 1987. The museum presents regular rotations of artworks from its growing permanent collection, organizes special exhibitions and programs throughout the year, publishes scholarly books, and conducts research into the conservation of modern and contemporary art. The Menil Collection's main museum building, the first building in the United States designed by Renzo Piano, anchors a parklike 30-acre campus, which also includes the Cy Twombly Gallery, a site-specific Dan Flavin installation, the Byzantine Fresco Chapel—now a venue for long-term installations by contemporary artists—and outdoor sculpture. A new building for the Menil Drawing Institute by Johnston Marklee, expected to open in 2017, will be the first freestanding facility in the United States designed expressly for the exhibition and study of modern and contemporary drawings. The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday, 11am to 7pm, and charges no admission fee.

### **Find the Menil Online**

[www.menil.org](http://www.menil.org)

[www.facebook.com/menilcollection](https://www.facebook.com/menilcollection)

[www.twitter.com/menilcollection](https://www.twitter.com/menilcollection)

[www.instagram.com/menilcollection](https://www.instagram.com/menilcollection)

[www.youtube.com/themenilcollection](https://www.youtube.com/themenilcollection)

### **Press Contact**

Menil Press Office

Tommy Napier

713.535.3170 / [press@menil.org](mailto:press@menil.org)