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During Art Basel: Vija Celmins, Jordan Wolfson, Mark Bradford, Gerhard Richter and Urs Fischer at the Fondation Beyeler

During Art Basel 2025, the Fondation Beyeler offers a rare opportunity to discover the impressive work of US-American artist Vija Celmins. It also premieres *Little Room*, a new virtual reality installation by Los Angeles-based artist Jordan Wolfson. This immersive work invites visitors to step into an experimental environment, in which they play a central role in the unfolding experience. A new presentation of the collection is devoted entirely to painting, featuring among others large-format paintings by US-American artist Mark Bradford from the Daros Collection, as well as a new digital projection by Gerhard Richter. As part of the “Globus Public Art Project”, Swiss artist Urs Fischer, also based in Los Angeles, activates different locations around Basel’s town square. In anticipation of its Cezanne retrospective at the beginning of next year, the Fondation Beyeler’s Art Basel booth is devoted to French painter Paul Cezanne.

More information on the Fondation Beyeler’s schedule of exhibitions and events

“Vija Celmins”

15 June – 21 September 2025, Fondation Beyeler, Riehen/Basel

This summer, the Fondation Beyeler presents one of the most comprehensive solo exhibitions ever devoted to US-American artist Vija Celmins in Europe. Celmins is best known for her paintings and drawings of galaxies, moon surfaces, desert floors, oceans and spiderwebs. Her works invite viewers to pause, look closely, and delve into the deeply absorbing surfaces. They draw the observer in, encouraging them to contemplate the tensions between surface and space, closeness and distance, stillness and movement. Organised in collaboration with the artist, the exhibition features around 90 works, mostly paintings and drawings as well as a small number of sculptures and prints.

Born in Riga, Latvia in 1938, in 1944 Vija Celmins fled with her family to Germany before emigrating to the United States in 1948. She grew up in Indianapolis, studied art in Los Angeles, and later moved to New Mexico, New York and Long Island, where she lives and works today. Held in the highest regard, Celmins’ work is sought after by renowned museums and private collections alike. However, opportunities to see her work are rare, not least because she has produced only around 220 paintings, drawings and sculptures over the course of her entire career so far.

The exhibition offers a comprehensive overview of Vija Celmins’ remarkable already 60-year career, presenting carefully selected groups of works. It ranges from a selection of important early paintings of everyday objects from the 1960s to Celmins’ most recent paintings of snow falling against a night sky, which masterfully evoke the mystery of the cosmos.

“Jordan Wolfson: Little Room”

1 June – 3 August 2025, Fondation Beyeler, Riehen/Basel

The Fondation Beyeler is pleased to premiere *Little Room*, a new virtual reality installation by US-American artist Jordan Wolfson. This immersive work, on display for the first time at the Fondation Beyeler, invites visitors to step into an experimental environment, in which they play a central role in the unfolding experience. *Little Room* delves into the complex intersection of real, virtual and imaginary realms. Wolfson’s work examines the darker aspects of human experience while raising existential questions about consciousness and identity. The show is organised by Fondation Beyeler in partnership with LUMA Foundation and supported by the Thomas und Doris Ammann Foundation, the George Economou Collection, the AMA Collection, as well as Sadie Coles HQ, Gagosian and David Zwirner.

Artist Talk with Jordan Wolfson

Wednesday 18 June, 6–7 p.m., Fondation Beyeler, Riehen/Basel

Curator Beatrix Ruf and artist Jordan Wolfson discuss Wolfson's artistic practice and his new virtual reality installation *Little Room*. *Little Room* delves into the complex intersection of real, virtual, and imaginary realms. Wolfson's work examines the darker aspects of the human experience while raising profound existential questions about consciousness, identity, and physical and intellectual negation.

The conversation will be held in English.

Tickets: CHF 25. – (tickets for the event include admission to the museum). Places are limited.

"There is only one thing I fear in life, my friend: One day, the black will swallow the red."

Presentation of the collection

25 May – 31 August 2025, Fondation Beyeler, Riehen/Basel

To coincide with the "Vija Celmins" exhibition, the Fondation Beyeler presents a presentation of the collection focussed exclusively on painting. Rooms devoted to individual artists feature works that have left a distinct imprint on this classical medium, opened up new perspectives, or even burst its bounds and upended its conventions. Among others, Pablo Picasso and Mark Rothko, Marlene Dumas and Wilhelm Sasnal are thus given individual rooms. The display will include Andy Warhol's *Sixty Last Suppers*, 1986, an outstanding work from the artist's last major series of paintings, which addresses the themes of religion and loss that were so crucial to his work. It will be shown alongside *Profit I*, 1982, an early masterpiece by Jean-Michel Basquiat. The presentation also includes large-format collaged works by US-American artist Mark Bradford from the Daros Collection. It is further complemented by a room devoted to Wolfgang Tillmans' photographic works, a multipart installation of digital images by Wade Guyton, as well as a room featuring Gerhard Richter's digital projection *Moving Picture* (946-3), *Kyoto Version*, produced between 2019 and 2024, on view in a museum for the very first time.

Globus Public Art Project

"Urs Fischer: Skinny Sunrise"

13 June – 27 July 2025, Market Square, Basel, open daily 10 a.m.–8 p.m. during Art Basel

For its third iteration, the 'Globus Public Art Project' will present "Skinny Sunrise" by the Los Angeles-based Swiss artist Urs Fischer. The exhibition project unfolds across several locations, from Globus department store's façade to the city's historical market square and the so-called "Totehüsli", an ossuary that once belonged to a nearby church. For this project, Urs Fischer, internationally celebrated for the intricacy and wit of his provocative sculptures and installations, takes inspiration from Basel's medieval "Totentanz (Dance of Death)", an iconographic symbol of the inescapability of death and its ubiquity in life itself. Fischer's works take up this set of motifs, transposing them into a contemporary artistic language, which confronts viewers with their own finitude. They include a self-portrait made of candle wax, skeleton sculptures inspired by art history and contemporary imagery, as well as a new production for the department store's façade.

During the three-year renovation of its iconic department store on Basel's historical market square, Globus is collaborating with the Fondation Beyeler on inviting artists to conceive and realise site-specific artworks.

Artist Talk with Urs Fischer

Friday 20 June, 6–7 p.m., Fondation Beyeler, Riehen/Basel

Swiss artist Urs Fischer (*1973, Zürich, lives and works in Los Angeles) speaks with Curator Samuel Leuenberger about his artistic practice. Among Fischer's most iconic motifs is the skeleton — reimagined not as a solemn reminder of mortality, but as a lively, ironic character in a broader meditation on vanitas. His artistic language revolves around impermanence, physical transformation, and the uneasy coexistence of grandeur and decay. For this year's Globus Public Art Project, the artist created a show on view on Basel's Marktplatz and the Martinskirchplatz in the city center.

Tickets: CHF 25. – (tickets for the event include admission to the museum). Places are limited.

Fondation Beyeler booth at Art Basel 2025 (G1, Hall 2.0)

This year's booth at Art Basel is dedicated to Paul Cezanne, whom the Fondation Beyeler will feature in a solo exhibition next year. Cezanne had a profound impact on Classical Modernism, virtually revolutionizing it through his innovative approach to painting. He assigned new, independent significance to the process of creating an artwork—beyond the subject matter itself—and in doing so, influenced many generations of artists to come. Pablo Picasso, for instance, famously referred to him as the "father of us all." Within the collection of Fondation Beyeler, Cezanne holds a special place, as he is one of the earliest artists represented and is prominently featured with seven important late works. These include several landscapes that vividly illustrate his groundbreaking painting style.

Exhibition preview 2025 and 2026

“Yayoi Kusama”

12 October 2025 – 25 January 2026, Fondation Beyeler, Riehen/Basel

Starting in October 2025, the Fondation Beyeler will present the first retrospective devoted to renowned Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama (*1929, Matsumoto) in Switzerland. The exhibition will offer a comprehensive overview of Kusama's more than seven-decade career. Alongside iconic works, the show will feature early works never before seen in Europe as well as a new production and one of the artist's celebrated Infinity Mirror Rooms. One of contemporary art's superstars, Kusama has achieved cult status with her exploration of repetitive patterns and structures, notably her characteristic polka dots and mirror rooms, which carry viewers away into worlds that seem to expand without limits. The exhibition will highlight the wealth of artistic media Kusama has worked with over the years, among them painting, sculpture, installation, drawing, collage, happening, live performance, fashion and literature. The exhibition «Yayoi Kusama» is organised by the Fondation Beyeler in collaboration with the Museum Ludwig in Cologne (14 March – 2 August 2026) and the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam (11 September 2026 – 17 January 2027).

“Cezanne”

25 January – 25 May 2026, Fondation Beyeler, Riehen/Basel

For the first time in its history, the Fondation Beyeler will devote an exhibition to Paul Cezanne, a pioneer of modern art and one of the most important artists in the museum's collection. The exhibition will focus on the last and most significant phase of the artist's career, highlighting key themes of his later years, among them still lifes, portraits, landscapes and bather scenes. Bringing together around 50 oil paintings and watercolours, the exhibition will bring to life Cezanne's groundbreaking work as regards form, light and colour – the qualities that have inspired and influenced artists for generations and through to the present day.

Tickets

Tickets for all events and exhibitions are available online under www.fondationbeyeler.ch/tickets and at the museum's reception desk.

Press images are available under www.fondationbeyeler.ch/en/media/press-images

Fondation Beyeler

The Fondation Beyeler in Riehen near Basel is internationally renowned for its high-calibre exhibitions, its significant collection of modern and contemporary art, as well as its ambitious schedule of events. The museum building was designed by Renzo Piano in the idyllic setting of a park with venerable trees and water lily ponds. It boasts a unique location in the heart of a local recreation area, looking out onto fields, pastures and vineyards close to the foothills of the Black Forest. In collaboration with Swiss architect Peter Zumthor, the Fondation Beyeler is constructing a new museum building in the adjoining park, thus further enhancing the harmonious interplay of art, architecture and nature.

Further information:

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Fondation Beyeler opening hours during Art Basel week (15–22 June): 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily