

Media release, 4 September 2025

"A Brief Art History of the Dot"

The Fondation Beyeler's new collection display

4 October 2025 – 4 January 2026

The Fondation Beyeler's new collection presentation focuses on the dot. The exhibition so picks up on a central motif in the work of Yayoi Kusama, to whom the museum is simultaneously dedicating a major retrospective. Different aspects of the dot – or point – within its artistic development from the late 19th century to the present day are illuminated. A very small round mark, a spot, speck or splatter, the dot is the smallest pictorial element, a basic geometric concept and can be both a sign and a symbol of creative and spiritual significance. The word "point", on the other hand, derives from the Latin punctum, meaning "puncture".

The dot's or point's multifaceted nature in art ranges from pointillism and abstraction to pop art and contemporary art. The dot can function as an abstract compositional element, in its figurative dimension, however, it can also become a tiny celestial body. From an emotional perspective, it can be a point of pain and forms the basis of visual perception as a light point and viewpoint. In this way, the exhibition also considers the dot from a sensual and human perspective.

Works by the following artists, among others, will be exhibited: Louise Bourgeois, Paul Cezanne, Max Ernst, Félix González-Torres, Wassily Kandinsky, Paul Klee, Roy Lichtenstein, Henri Matisse, Joan Mitchell, Joan Miró, Piet Mondrian, Claude Monet, Barnett Newman, Elizabeth Peyton, Pablo Picasso, Sigmar Polke, Jackson Pollock, Henri Rousseau, Doris Salcedo, Wolfgang Tillmans, Vincent van Gogh and Andy Warhol.

The collection exhibition is curated by Raphaël Bouvier, Senior Curator at Fondation Beyeler, with the involvement of Fondation Beyeler's "Young Think Tank", who dedicated a room to light points.

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

"Young Think Tank"

The "Young Think Tank" was established in 2013 to allow young employees of the Fondation Beyeler to connect with one another. It addresses issues they care about, seeks to open new perspectives onto current topics, and develops ideas, concepts and projects.

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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General opening hours of the Fondation Beyeler:

Daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesdays until 8 p.m.

Special opening hours during the exhibition “Yayoi Kusama”

(12 October 2025 – 25 January 2026):

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Wednesday: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.