

Fondation Beyeler's exhibition programme in the opening year of its expanded ensemble

A major new collection exhibition and four solo presentations by influential artists form the high-quality programme in the opening year of the expanded ensemble of the Fondation Beyeler.

Constellations

Autumn 2026 through autumn 2027

«Constellations» is the inaugural exhibition of the Fondation Beyeler's newly expanded ensemble: for the first time, an exhibition will unfold across the new museum building designed by Peter Zumthor (Wyss Museum) alongside the museum building by Renzo Piano (Beyeler Museum), as well as the expanded park and the repurposed historical buildings. Bringing together around 230 works, the largest exhibition of its collection in the museum's history will foreground the dialogue between art, architecture and nature for which the Fondation Beyeler is internationally renowned. Varied spaces, atmospheres and viewpoints will allow visitors to experience striking encounters with the artworks and their surroundings.

The title references Alexander Calder's *Constellations* from 1943, several of which will be shown in the exhibition while also serving as its leitmotiv. Just as with star patterns perceived in the night sky, the shifting constellations of artworks will create new relations and open new perspectives. «Constellations» is an evolving exhibition: part of the rooms and work groupings will change on a seasonal basis, giving rise to new constellations. Visitors are thus invited to experience the art on display anew with each visit to the Fondation Beyeler's expanded ensemble.

«Constellations» will bring together masterpieces from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries held in the collection of the Fondation Beyeler, including recent acquisitions and gifts, as well as significant loans from renowned Swiss and international private collections. The exhibition will feature important works by Claude Monet, Pablo Picasso, Alexander Calder, Joan Miró, René Magritte, Alberto Giacometti, Mark Rothko, Willem de Kooning, Joan Mitchell, Cy Twombly, Louise Bourgeois, Fujiko Nakaya, Gerhard Richter, Vija Celmins, Marlene Dumas, Robert Gober, Thomas Schütte, Roni Horn, Fischli/Weiss, Elizabeth Peyton, Wolfgang Tillmans and Otobong Nkanga, alongside works by around 25 other artists.

Ruth Asawa

18 October 2026 – 10 January 2027

The first retrospective in Switzerland devoted to the US-American artist of Japanese descent Ruth Asawa (1926–2013) will offer an extraordinary opportunity to experience the ways in which Asawa transformed the simplest of materials into fascinating object, blurring the boundaries between abstraction and figuration, art and craft, action and contemplation. Asawa's multi-faceted and diverse oeuvre features wire and bronze sculptures, drawings, prints, paintings and public commissions. In the late 1940s, she studied at the legendary Black Mountain College under Josef Albers and others such as Richard Buckminster Fuller and Merce Cunningham.

From 1949, Asawa lived in San Francisco, where she produced a body of work ranging from variations of abstract looped-wire sculptures to calligraphic ink drawings, which stand as an equally vital and autonomous part of her practice. The exhibition will highlight the interplay between these various forms of expression. Community engagement was central to Asawa's life and work. From the late 1960s, Asawa carried out numerous public commissions such as fountains, murals and memorials. She also played a significant role in promoting art education in California's Bay Area and beyond. While Ruth Asawa is widely celebrated in the United States, this exhibition marks a rare and overdue opportunity for European audiences to encounter the full depth and richness of her artistic legacy.

“Ruth Asawa” is an exhibition partnership between the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and The Museum of Modern Art, New York. This presentation was developed by the Fondation Beyeler

Frida Kahlo

31 January – 17 May 2027

Early in the new year, the Fondation Beyeler will devote a major retrospective to Frida Kahlo (1907–1954), focussed on her body of work. Featuring around 50 paintings, the exhibition will bring together approximately one third of her entire painted oeuvre. It will further present 15 characteristic drawings. As the first monographic exhibition of Frida Kahlo in Switzerland, it offers both a comprehensive overview of the artist's work and a unique insight into an oeuvre that is rarely seen in Europe.

The exhibition will trace Frida Kahlo's artistic development from the 1920s to the 1950s. It will centre on her fascinating and iconic self-portraits, as well as showcasing her complex still lifes and striking portraits of family members and friends. Frida Kahlo's highly expressive and distinct imagery merges life and art, tradition and innovation, as well as reality, dream and phantasy. The exhibition offers a rare chance to encounter many of Frida Kahlo's most important works firsthand.

Louise Bourgeois

13 June – 17 October 2027

In summer 2027, the Fondation Beyeler will devote a major exhibition to Louise Bourgeois (1911–2010), bringing together around 100 works from all phases of the great artist's career. The exhibition will feature sculptures made of wood, plaster, bronze, latex and other materials as well as ink drawings, watercolours, oil paintings and some of her monumental Cells, installations that rank among Bourgeois's most significant works. A selection of her iconic spider sculptures will be displayed across both museum buildings and the expanded park.

The exhibition guides visitors through the diverse artistic forms of expression in Louise Bourgeois's oeuvre and illustrates the close connection between her work and psychological themes. Her quest for balance, her engagement with the formal possibilities of gravity and her search for a centre can also be viewed against this backdrop. Through her forms, Bourgeois touches upon the reaches of what often remains unconscious and is hard to articulate, which is what makes her work so compelling. As one of the 20th century's most influential artists, Louise Bourgeois shaped the development of modern sculpture, finding radically new ways of probing essential themes such as the body, memory and identity.

Elizabeth Peyton

26 September 2027 – 9 January 2028

In autumn 2027, the Fondation Beyeler will devote a comprehensive solo exhibition to US-American artist Elizabeth Peyton (* 1965). The exhibition is conceived in close collaboration with the artist.

Since the 1990s, Elizabeth Peyton is being regarded as one of the leading voices in contemporary painting. With her intimate, atmospheric portraits of friends, fellow artists, musicians and historic figures, she has created a distinctive visual language that emphasises closeness, fragility and emotion. The exhibition will bring together paintings, drawings and prints from various phases of the artist's career, offering many-layered perspectives onto Peyton's oeuvre. Her works combine classical portrait traditions with a contemporary sensibility, probing themes such as identity, beauty, memory and cultural projections. The Fondation Beyeler's exhibition is the first in Switzerland to present a comprehensive overview of Elizabeth Peyton's work, honouring an artist who has left a lasting imprint on contemporary figurative painting.