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## BMA Opens *Engaging the Elements: Poetry in Nature* in September

The exhibition features nearly 20 artworks that explore humanity's evolving relationship with nature through depictions of the elements

BALTIMORE, MD (August 6, 2025)—On September 17, the Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) will open *Engaging the Elements: Poetry in Nature*, a focus exhibition that highlights the powerful role nature plays in our lives and imaginations. Nearly 20 photographs, prints, drawings, and textiles from the BMA's collection illustrate how artists have captured the beauty and force of the natural world through images of air, water, earth, and fire. *Engaging the Elements: Poetry in Nature* explores the ways art connects us to nature and can spark meaningful conversations about preservation and ecological awareness. The exhibition will be on view through February 8, 2026.

Depictions of the elements have long served as a way to communicate humanity's appreciation for both the beauty of and threat within nature. Against this overarching backdrop, *Engaging the Elements* demonstrates how attitudes toward the environment have shifted and continue to evolve through time, from the rise of widespread industrialization in the 19th century to the current climate challenges. Through works like William Morris' handmade floral textile *Rose* (1883); Larry Schwarm's dramatic *Wheat Stubble Fire, Eastern Colorado* (1992, printed 2004); Yao Lu's deceptive *View of Waterfall with Rocks and Pines* (2007); and Jowita Wyszomirska's dazzling *Nothing Gold Can Stay 2* (2023), nature is presented as a creative catalyst worth celebrating and protecting.

Other highlights include rarely shown works on paper such as Winslow Homer's *Coconut Palms* (1893), Thomas Moran's *The Gathering Storm Cloud* (1893), and Kiki Smith's *Tidal* (1998) portfolio of photogravures and photolithographs. In these artworks and others, the elements both mirror our relationship with the Earth and become meaningful communicators for shaping a more sustainable future.

"*Engaging the Elements* features a beautiful and poignant array of works that inspire us to reflect on the natural world's enduring potency to compel us, to connect us, and to fill us with a sense of awe," said Asma Naeem, the BMA's Dorothy Wagner Wallis Director. "These intrinsic aspects of nature, captured so powerfully in art, also create meaningful opportunities for conversations about our role in preserving and sustaining the environment that gives us so much."

The exhibition is co-curated by Leslie Cozzi, BMA Curator and Department Head of Prints, Drawings, and Photographs, and Andaleeb Badiee Banta, former BMA Senior Curator of Prints, Drawings, and Photographs.

*Engaging the Elements: Poetry in Nature* is supported by the Henry Luce Foundation.



### **Turn Again to the Earth**

*Turn Again to the Earth* is a series of major initiatives that model commitments to environmental sustainability and foster discourse on climate change and the role of the museum during the BMA's 110th anniversary. Unfolding throughout 2025, the interrelated efforts include a series of 10 exhibitions as well as public programs that capture the relationships between art and the environment across time and geography; the creation of a sustainability plan for the museum; and a citywide eco-challenge that invites Baltimore and regional partners to engage in environment-related conversations and enact their own plans for a more sustainable future. The title for this initiative is inspired by the writing of environmental activist Rachel Carson, who spent most of her life and career in Maryland.

This initiative is generously supported by the Cohen Opportunity Fund, the Henry Luce Foundation, Nancy Dorman and Stanley Mazaroff, Baltimore Gas and Electric, Johns Hopkins University & Medicine, the Eileen Harris Norton Foundation, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield, and the Clayton Baker Trust.

### **Baltimore Museum of Art**

Founded in 1914, the Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) inspires people of all ages and backgrounds through exhibitions, programs, and collections that tell an expansive story of art—challenging long-held narratives and embracing new voices. Our outstanding collection of more than 97,000 objects spans many eras and cultures and includes the world's largest public holding of works by Henri Matisse; one of the nation's finest collections of prints, drawings, and photographs; and a rapidly growing number of works by contemporary artists of diverse backgrounds. The museum is also distinguished by a neoclassical building designed by American architect John Russell Pope and two beautifully landscaped gardens featuring an array of modern and contemporary sculpture. The BMA is located three miles north of the Inner Harbor, adjacent to the main campus of Johns Hopkins University, and has a community branch at Lexington Market. General admission is free so that everyone can enjoy the power of art.

### **Visitor Information**

General admission to the BMA is free. The BMA is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with extended hours on Thursdays until 9 p.m. The Sculpture Gardens are open Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to dusk. The museum and gardens are closed New Year's Day, Juneteenth, July 4, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. The BMA is located at 10 Art Museum Drive, three miles north of Baltimore's Inner Harbor. For general museum information, call 443-573-1700 or visit [artbma.org](http://artbma.org).

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