



Academy
Museum
of Motion
Pictures

ACADEMY MUSEUM OF MOTION PICTURES
Inaugural Exhibitions Backgrounder
Opening September 30, 2021 in Los Angeles, California

Led by Director and President Bill Kramer, the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures will be the largest institution in the United States devoted to the arts, sciences, and artists of moviemaking. Designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Renzo Piano, more than 50,000 square feet of gallery space will be filled with a highly immersive core exhibition, *Stories of Cinema*, designed by renowned cross-disciplinary studio WHY Architecture, and a schedule of diverse temporary exhibitions.

Academy Museum Exhibitions and Experiences
Stories of Cinema

The exhibition experience of the Academy Museum will begin in the Grand Lobby of the Saban Building with the Spielberg Family Gallery—which is open to the public without charge. This soaring, glass-walled gallery will serve as an introduction to the 31,000 square-foot, three-floor core exhibition *Stories of Cinema*, which will surround visitors with multiple screens featuring a rapid immersion into the history of cinema, from the Lumière brothers to present day.

Continuing to the second and third floors, *Stories of Cinema* will connect audiences to the celebratory, complex, diverse, and international history of motion pictures. All aspects of the arts and sciences of moviemaking will be explored in the *Stories of Cinema* galleries, which, like cinema itself, will evolve and change over time—highlighting different movies, artists, eras, genres, and more.

Adopting the approach that there is no single narrative encompassing the development of cinema, this exhibition will showcase multiple stories about moviemaking from a variety of voices and perspectives. *Stories of Cinema* will include galleries developed in collaboration with Academy Award®-winning writer-directors Spike Lee and Pedro Almodóvar, Academy Award-winning composer Hildur Guðnadóttir, and Academy Award-winning sound designer Ben Burtt. These moments will help visitors gain insight into the work, passions, and influences of these remarkable movie artists.

Within *Stories of Cinema*, a gallery devoted to *The Wizard of Oz* takes visitors behind the scenes of this classic movie to explore the many disciplines that made this film come to life—screenwriting, casting, make-up design, costume design, production design, sound design, special effects, acting, directing, producing, and more. Connected to this experience will be galleries that dive deeper into the worlds of casting and performance; the creation of identity through costume, hair, and makeup design; the various components of sound design; the creation of story; and the work of cinematographers.

Other *Stories of Cinema* galleries will be devoted to showing how worlds and characters are created in science fiction and fantasy movies through the collaborative work of production designers, visual effects artists, and costume designers; how documentaries and narrative movies reflect and impact social issues; hand-drawn, stop-motion, and digital animation; a

history of the Academy Awards; and significant moments in cinema history as told through a diverse array of vignettes spotlighting significant movies and movie artists such as Bruce Lee, Emmanuel “Chivo” Lubezki, Oscar Micheaux, Thelma Schoonmaker, *Citizen Kane*, and *Real Women Have Curves*.

On both floors, visitors will be surrounded by moving images, sound, props, costumes, scripts, posters, production and costume design drawings, matte paintings, photographs, backdrops, animation cels, puppets, maquettes, and more. While *Stories of Cinema* will celebrate and champion the stories, art, and artists of cinema, complex and difficult stories also will be told.

Hayao Miyazaki

The Academy Museum’s inaugural temporary exhibition, *Hayao Miyazaki*, marks the first museum retrospective in the Americas dedicated to the acclaimed artist and his work. On view in the museum’s Marilyn and Jeffrey Katzenberg Gallery, the exhibition features more than 300 objects and explores each of Miyazaki’s animated feature films, including *My Neighbor Totoro* (1988) and the Academy Award®-winning *Spirited Away* (2001). Visitors will travel through the filmmaker’s six-decade career through a dynamic presentation of original imageboards, character designs, storyboards, layouts, backgrounds, posters, and cels, including pieces on public view outside of Japan for the first time, as well as large-scale projections of film clips and immersive environments.

Thematically organized in seven sections, the exhibition is designed as a journey. To enter, visitors follow four-year-old Mei, a character from *My Neighbor Totoro*, into the Tree Tunnel gallery, a transitional space that leads into Miyazaki’s enchanted worlds. Once inside, visitors will be able to explore how Miyazaki’s characters are developed from concept to creation; learn more about Miyazaki’s long-term collaboration with the late Isao Takahata, with whom he founded Studio Ghibli; and view Miyazaki’s early works as an animator.

Deeper into the exhibition, the Creating Worlds gallery will capture the contrast between beautiful, natural, and peaceful environments and the industrial settings dominated by labor and technology that are also often featured in Miyazaki’s movies. Visitors can view concept sketches and backgrounds that offer insight into Miyazaki’s imagination and explore Miyazaki’s fascination with complex vertical structures, such as the famous bathhouse in *Spirited Away*, and the underwater world of *Ponyo* (2008), as well as Miyazaki’s interest in flying, as seen in *Porco Rosso* (1992) and *The Wind Rises* (2013). As a highlight of the exhibition, visitors can enjoy a moment of quiet contemplation in the Sky View installation, addressing another frequent motif in Miyazaki’s films: the desire to slow down, reflect, and dream.

Visitors then enter the Transformations gallery providing visitors with the opportunity to explore the astonishing metamorphoses often experienced by both characters and settings in Miyazaki’s films. And finally, the exhibition concludes with Magical Forest and its Mother Tree installation. Standing at the threshold between dream and reality, colossal, mystical trees in many of Miyazaki’s films represent a connection or gateway to another world.

The Path to Cinema: Highlights from the Richard Balzer Collection

Widely considered to be the world’s foremost collection of pre-cinematic optical toys and devices, objects from the Richard Balzer Collection will comprise *The Path to Cinema: Highlights from the Richard Balzer Collection*, located in the LAIKA Gallery on the third floor

of the museum's Saban Building. The exhibition will explore the long history of visual entertainment which led to the invention of cinema, from shadow play, peepshows, magic lanterns, zoetropes and praxinoscopes to the Cinématographe Lumière, the world's first successful film projector. Visitors to this exhibition will experience these marvelous inventions first-hand and take in the wonders of a magic lantern show especially created for this exhibition.

Backdrop: An Invisible Art

The dramatic, 34-foot double-height Hurd Gallery will debut the exhibition *Backdrop: An Invisible Art*, which spotlights a monumental backdrop—the iconic Mt. Rushmore backing from Hitchcock's *North by Northwest*—considering both its artistry and its contested imagery.

The Oscars® Experience

Located on the third floor in the East West Bank Gallery, *The Oscars® Experience* will create an immersive environment that simulates the experience of visitors walking onto the stage at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood and accepting an Oscar.