



Palo Gallery Presents *Maison Palo* a Thematic Group Exhibition
September 8–October 27



Alexander Calder, *Lombrizi*, 1975, 57 x 85 Inches, Maguëy Fiber

Palo Gallery presents *Maison Palo*, an exhibition that uncovers the history and nature of collecting through four distinct avenues, inviting visitors to investigate the art of collecting. A joint curatorial endeavour between journalist Sophia Herring and Palo Gallery founder Paul Henkel, *Maison Palo* aims to transform the gallery through a distinct, domestic atmosphere. Rather than isolating artworks within a traditional white cube space, *Maison Palo* reveals the ways in which people actually live with their collections, celebrating the art, togetherness, and storytelling behind the act of collecting.

The exhibition is organized through four themed rooms, each representing a unique type of collector profile: the Emerging Collector, the Encyclopaedic Collector, the Textile Collector, and the Thematic Collector. Using a carefully curated selection of modern and contemporary art, design objects, and furniture by Annabelle Selldorf's Vica brand, each room will immerse visitors

in a rich tapestry of domestic collecting practices. Through the coalescence of interior elements, including furniture and art, *Maison Palo* explores these four types of collecting through four distinct rooms. The *foyer* represents the Emerging Collector; the *study* embodies the Encyclopaedic Collector; the *living room* is emblematic of the Textile Collector; and the *dining room* embraces the Thematic Collector.

The entry point to the exhibition, designed as the *foyer*, represents the taste of the Emerging Collector. The *foyer* presents works by emerging artists such as Lorenzo Amos, Kitty Rice, Keith Tolch, and Rachel Wolf. This space aims to highlight the visionary nature of emerging collectors who forge their own path, championing young artists and looking towards the future with excitement and passion.



Ai Weiwei, Watermelon, 2006

The *study*, the second room in *Maison Palo*, highlights the centuries-old form of encyclopaedic collecting. This space explores the earliest forms of art collecting, combining curiosities, art, and antiques. Reflecting on the historical context and the impact of encyclopaedic collecting on today's largest art institutions, the *study* presents historically collected works alongside contemporary artists such as Ai Weiwei who critique and reinterpret this collecting practice and its colonial implications.

Exploring further into the exhibition viewers encounter the third room, that of the Textile Collector, staged as a *living room*. Highlights include *Tar 2*, a painted story quilt by celebrated artist Faith Ringgold, and a celestial fiber weaving by Alexander Calder. The Textile Collector celebrates a re-evaluation within the contemporary art world which has come to recognize the significant contributions of textile-based artworks. From historical milestones to contemporary rising stars, this room shines a spotlight on the rich history of textile art, championing the artists who have been overlooked in the past and the collectors who covet their medium.

Lastly, staged in the format of a *dining room*, the Thematic Collector focuses on the concept of building cohesive collections around specified themes. Visitors will encounter a curated collection focused on the motif of the hand, a symbol of creative power and complexity in art history. Showcasing artworks from different periods and styles, including works by Judy Chicago and Georg Baselitz, the *dining room* offers an exciting comparative study, providing new insights into the depiction of hands in art.

Maison Palo serves as a conceptual exploration of the how and why people collect art. By celebrating the passion, creativity, and stories behind collecting, the gallery aims to move away from the commercial goals that have often overshadowed the true essence of this timeless practice.

About the Curator

Sophia Herring is an Arts and Culture journalist based in New York. She regularly contributes to publications including Architectural Digest, The Guardian, The New York Times, and The Art Newspaper. In the fall, Herring will return to her studies at Columbia Journalism's Master of Arts program with a focus in Arts and Culture. Before getting into journalism, Sophia studied

Architecture and worked at firms including CWB, Leeser Architects, and Selldorf, where she spent six months in their interiors department.

About Palo Gallery

Established in 2018 in New York City by third-generation art collector and dealer Paul Henkel, Palo Gallery brings to bear a tradition of art scholarship and patronage, working as a true thought partner with artists to realize their visions and create dynamic presentations. Extensive research by the Palo curatorial team ensures that each exhibition is advised by the art historical canon and contemporary cultural touchpoints. In 2022, Palo Gallery opened its new 3,400-square-foot flagship space designed by Selldorf Architects in the NoHo district of Manhattan as the only dedicated partner showcasing Vica by Annabelle Selldorf. A destination of discovery, Palo Gallery's multifaceted program ranges from tightly curated, thematic group exhibitions to insightful art historically informed solo exhibitions spanning a breadth of artistic endeavors.

Since its inception, Palo Gallery has sought to incorporate thematic elements into its curatorial practice – whether it be group shows or solo presentations. Early exhibitions marked the gallery's foray into concept-driven presentations focusing on themes of memory and our most primitive instincts. *Memories Manifest* (2021) saw seven artists working in response to each other and the theme of memory, while *Primordial* (2021) investigated the ways that thoughts, emotions, reactions, and experiences speak to our most primitive instincts. The large-scale *Real Wild* (2022) presented an array of representations and interpretations of iconography from the American Wild West, a setting of which many of us have a collective archetype that the exhibition sought to re-contextualize. Building on the success of these conceptual group exhibitions, Palo has continued navigating contemporary cultural topics via art historical narratives with a number of solo exhibitions. Today, the gallery continues to showcase thematic presentations that offer Palo Gallery and its artists a unique opportunity to explore pivotal cultural and historical topics at a level that transcends those achieved via a standard solo exhibition.

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