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Media Contacts

Eva Seta | eseta@thebroad.org
Darius Sabbaghzadeh | darius@hellothirdeye.com
Kyle Hinton | kyle@hellothirdeye.com

***Yoko Ono: Music of the Mind* comes to The Broad in 2026
in the Artist's First Solo Museum Exhibition in Southern California**

**Visitors Participate in Ono's Vision of Hope and Imagination through Works Spanning
Her Genre Defying Career**



LOS ANGELES, CA – Yoko Ono, the visionary artist, musician, and activist whose work has shaped contemporary culture for more than seven decades, will be celebrated at The Broad in *Yoko Ono: Music of the Mind*, the artist's first solo museum exhibition in Southern California, organized in collaboration with Tate Modern, London. In spring 2026, visitors will be invited to directly participate in many of Ono's works that transform simple acts into expressions of peace and connection. The Broad's olive trees on East West Bank Plaza will become *Wish Trees for Los Angeles*, a key installation (first realized in 1996 at Shoshana Wayne Gallery, Santa Monica) inviting audiences to tie their own wishes to the tree branches in a living expression of hope in Los Angeles. The exhibition will be on view May 23 through October 11, 2026. Tickets will be available in early 2026 at thebroad.org.

"For more than seven decades, Yoko Ono has expanded the possibilities of art as a force for connection and change," said Joanne Heyler, Founding Director and President of The Broad. "Poetic and bold, her emphasis on community and activism is especially timely, reminding us that imagination binds us together and can be a powerful source of collective strength."

Ono was born in 1933 in Tokyo and relocated to New York City in 1956, where she soon became an integral part of the city's emerging experimental art community. She played a key role in the early development of conceptual art and was closely involved in the formation of Fluxus, the global avant-garde collective of artists and composers that included renowned figures like George Maciunas, La Monte Young, and John Cage. Her experiences as a young girl in the Japanese countryside fleeing the horrors of World War II inspired the fundamental principles of her artmaking, where she relied on her imagination for nourishment and to maintain hope. From early in her career, Ono believed that artistic production was not limited to a studio, gallery, or museum, and could live in the minds, bodies, and hearts of everyone.

"Since the 1950s, Yoko Ono has worked across genres and mediums from music and performance to visual art, contending with a complex spectrum of human emotion," said Sarah Loyer, Curator and Exhibitions Manager. "Her foundational contributions to 1960s conceptualism and her lifelong commitment to participation have redefined what art can be and do. The throughline across her immense body of work, created across the United States, the UK, and Japan, is a sense of empowerment, both for herself and her audiences. The exhibition brings together a series of experiences that invite everyone to share in the act of creation and imagine change toward peace and equality."

A belief that art could be made solely from the mind informed her early "instruction" works from the mid-1950s to today that will be on view in the exhibition. In these interactive pieces, short texts describe actions for viewers to complete or reflect upon. On view will be the typescript drafts for her famous 1964 book *Grapefruit*, which includes over 200 of these "instructions" arranged by types including music, painting, events, poetry, and objects: "Listen to the sound of the Earth turning," "Fly," "Put your shadows together until they become one," and "Draw a map to get lost." These works, which prompt audiences to think, imagine, and question, exist somewhere between score and poem. In addition to the text-based works, a selection of the instructions will be activated for audience participation, such as *Painting to Hammer a Nail* (1961/1966).

Materials from the artist's international campaigns for peace and displays of anti-war activism will also be on view, such as *Acorn Event* (1968) and *Bed Peace* (1969), projects done in collaboration with her late husband John Lennon. In 1968, Ono and Lennon planted two acorns as a living sculpture for the Exhibition of British Sculpture at Coventry Cathedral in England. Soon after, they sent acorns to world leaders to plant in their gardens as symbols of world peace. In 1969, the couple staged their famous "bed-in" events in Amsterdam and Montreal, leveraging media attention to speak out against the Vietnam War.

Film and video feature heavily throughout the exhibition, including footage of Ono's most famous participatory performance work, *Cut Piece*, first performed at Yamaichi Hall, Kyoto in 1964, in which the audience was invited to cut away pieces of her clothing while she sat silently onstage. Also on view will be *FILM NO. 1 ('MATCH') / Fluxfilm No. 14* (1966), capturing the striking of a match in slow motion; *FILM NO. 4 ('BOTTOMS')* (1967), a work that was once banned by the British Board of Film Censors; and collaborative video works with Lennon such as *FLY* (1970-71) and *Freedom* (1970) that address women's liberation.

Contemporary installations created in the 2000s, such as *Helmets (Pieces of Sky)* (2001), invite audiences to envision new horizons through direct participation. In the work, guests are invited to take a puzzle piece from a series of overturned World War II-era German soldier helmets, suggesting that the pieces may come together to form a complete sky and that we are each part of a shared whole. In Ono's words, "Take a piece of sky. Know that we are all part of each other." Collective humanity is also at the heart of the installation *My Mommy is Beautiful* (2004), where visitors can write thoughts about or pin photographs of their mothers. The work will accumulate personal stories throughout the exhibition's run, becoming a universal testimonial to the complexity of our relationships with our mothers.

A full slate of associated programming with additional details will be announced in the coming months.

Yoko Ono: Music of the Mind is organized by Tate Modern, London in collaboration with The Broad, Los Angeles. Curated by Juliet Bingham, Curator, International Art, Tate Modern. The Broad presentation is curated by Sarah Loyer, Curator and Exhibitions Manager.

Image credits (L-R): Yoko Ono holding *Glass Hammer*, 1967, in *Yoko Ono at Lisson: Half-A-Wind Show*, Lisson Gallery, London, 1967. © Yoko Ono. Photo by and © Clay Perry. Visitors explore Yoko Ono's *Add Colour (Refugee Boat)* (1960/2016) installed in *Yoko Ono: Music of the Mind*, Tate Modern, London, 2024. © Yoko Ono. Photo © Oliver Cowling, courtesy of Tate.

About The Broad

The Broad's mission is to make contemporary art accessible to the widest possible audience. Founded in 2015 on Grand Avenue in downtown Los Angeles by philanthropists Eli and Edythe Broad, the museum offers free general admission and presents an active program of special exhibitions and innovative live events, all within a landmark building designed by Diller Scofidio + Renfro. The Broad is home to the Broad collection, one of the world's leading collections of postwar and contemporary art, which continues to grow as new artists and artworks are added. The museum is the headquarters of The Broad Art Foundation's worldwide lending library, which has been loaning collection works to museums around the world since 1984. An [expansion of the museum](#) will open before the 2028 summer Olympics in Los Angeles, creating even greater public access.

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