



Tchoban Foundation
Museum for
Architectural Drawing

Press release

Berlin 27.7.2020

Thom Mayne: Sculptural Drawings

Tchoban Foundation. Museum for Architectural Drawing
Christinenstrasse 18a, 10119 Berlin

Exhibition dates: 11 September – 15 November 2020

Opening hours: Mon. – Fri. 2 – 7 p.m., Sat. – Sun. 1 – 5 p.m.

Ticket: 5 Euros; reduction: 3 Euros

Guided tour for the press: 10 September 2020 at 6 p.m.

Please register at newsletter@tchoban-foundation.de. You will receive a confirmation of the registration.

The first line of a (architectural) drawing begins with an idea – no matter where it takes one and what form it will become. To Thom Mayne everything starts with an idea that leads to complex forms, to something unpredictable – unattainable. In the course of his outstanding career, Mayne has challenged the nature of architectural drawing; creating improvisations, sculptural paintings that although completely random, influence his architecture.

In the seventies, a group of architects with shared cultural and pedagogical relationships came on the scene in Venice Beach, known as the so-called L.A. Ten. These ten architects, one of whom was Thom Mayne, were shifting away from the *form follows function* idea exploring new possibilities of experimental Los Angeles architecture. With the climate in Southern California, coupled with the remains of materials left behind by manufacturing and aerospace industries in Los Angeles, the L.A. architects were given an exciting platform for experimentation. Around that time, together with the architect James Stafford, Mayne founded his experimental practice Morphosis of which he is the principal today.



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The name Morphosis describes the philosophy of the architectural practice: different techniques are morphed together to form something new. With this idea, projects like the *Caltrans District 7 Headquarters* in Los Angeles, *41 Cooper Square* for the Cooper Union in New York, and *Bill and Melinda Gates Hall* for Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, as well as the *Hypo Alpe-Adria Center* in Klagenfurt were realized – all of which count as architectural icons. Mayne is also the co-founder of the Southern California Institute of Architects (SCI-Arc) in Los Angeles, where his dedication to academia and research continues at the Now Institute in L.A. He received the Pritzker Prize in 2005 and served on President Barack Obama’s Committee for the Arts and Humanities from 2009 to 2016.

The exhibition *Thom Mayne: Sculptural Drawings* presents only a fraction of Mayne’s tremendous and always idiosyncratic body of work: personal sketchbooks, serigraphs, hand and so-called sculptural drawings dating from 1979 through 2020. It encompasses both “traditional” works on paper and two-and-a-half-dimensional drawings titled *Drawdels* – an invention combining drawing and model, as well as 3D paintings, an experimentation with form and materiality. Mayne’s visionary composition conceived for the exhibition *Berlin – Monument or Theoretical Model* from 1988 is a part of a conversation that this exhibition enters.

With an insight into the shifting and always evolving nature of architecture, the selection in this exhibit presents the viewer with Mayne’s continued interest in challenging the norm, not only in terms of his artistic language, but also his architectural idiom. This selection outlines how Thom Mayne’s interest in transformation and invention changed the formal vocabulary of modern architecture not only in Los Angeles but also abroad.

A catalogue accompanies the exhibition.

The exhibition is curated by Dr. h. c. Kristin Feireiss, co-founder and director of the Aedes Architecture Forum and member of the Curatorial Board of the Tchoban Foundation. Museum for Architectural Drawing, together with Esenija Bannan, Curator at the Tchoban Foundation. Museum for Architectural Drawing.



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Tchoban Foundation. Museum for Architectural Drawing

Founded in 2009 by Sergei Tchoban, a passionate draughtsman and collector of architectural drawings, the Tchoban Foundation and its considerable collection serves as a resource for research into the history and nature of architectural drawing. In addition, an extensive reference library with a focus on architectural drawings offers specialists and interested visitors a place to conduct their studies. The prime goal of the foundation is to bring the imaginative and emotionally charged worlds of architectural drawing in the digital age closer to the general public through exhibitions.

Kindly supported by



Media Partner



Every Wednesday, for the duration of the exhibition, students with a valid student ID receive free admission as part of SCHÜCO Day! This event was made possible by a generous contribution from Schüco.

Contact

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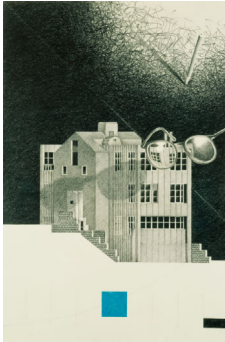
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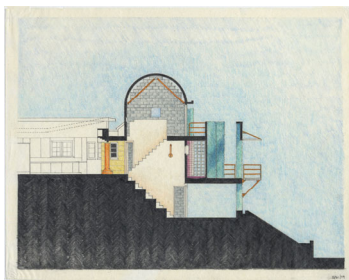


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Illustrations



Lawrence Residence 9
Lawrence Residence, Hermosa Beach, USA
1980
Pencil on paper
73,5 × 57 cm
© Thom Mayne
(LWR-02REND09)



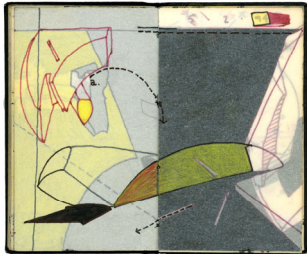
Flores Residence
Flores Residence, Pacific Palisades, Los Angeles, USA
1979
Coloured pencil on vellum
28 × 35,5 cm
with Judith Newmark
© Thom Mayne
(FLS 23)



Untitled (Nolita 5-6)
2019
Ink, pencil on vellum
30,5 × 23 cm (two overlaid drawings)
© Thom Mayne
(NOLITA_5-6)



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Sketchbook
1994/95
Ink, graphite on vellum
12,5 × 7,5 cm
© Thom Mayne

(TMSketchbook2_pg196-197)



Nara 1
Nara Convention Center, Nara, Japan
1994
Mixed media
91,5 × 58,5 cm
with Kinga Racon
© Thom Mayne

(02NARCOLLAGE)

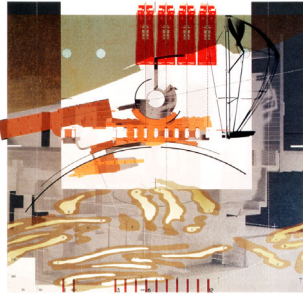


Berlin Wall
1986
Mixed media
199 × 100 cm
with Stephanie Adolph & Ahti Lahti
© Thom Mayne

(BER-MOI)



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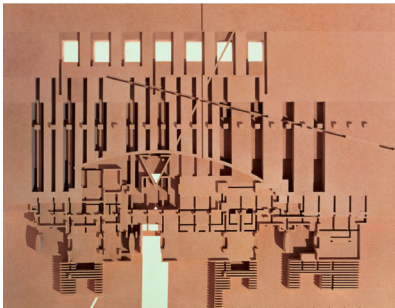
Chiba
Chiba Golf Club, Chiba Prefecture, Japan
1991
Serigraph
61 × 61 cm
Ed. 28/50
© Thom Mayne

(JPGA)



72 Market Street
72 Market Street Restaurant, Venice, Los Angeles, USA
1984
Mixed media on mylar
84 × 56 cm
with Kazu Arai
© Thom Mayne

(72M)



Crawford Drawdel
Crawford Residence, Montecito, USA
1989
Fiberboard
70,5 × 101,5 × 7,5 cm
with David Guthrie
© Thom Mayne

(CRW)



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BEIMINGTON 2

2014

Mixed media

66 × 66 × 5,5 cm

with Morphosis

© Thom Mayne

(22_CFS)