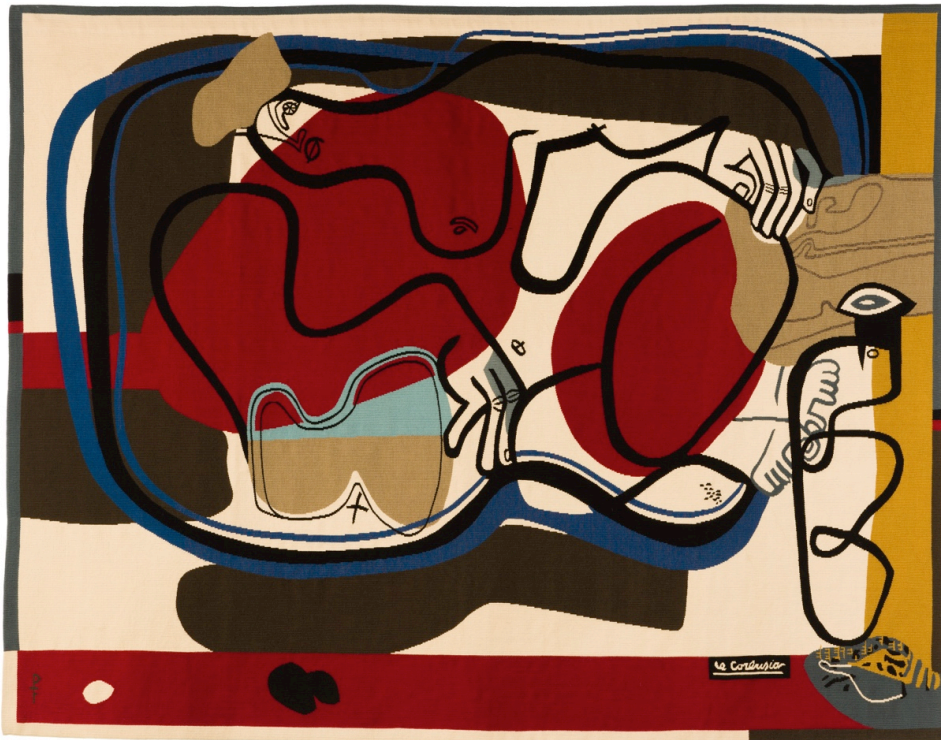


BECHTLER
MUSEUM OF
MODERN ART

For Immediate Release

***NOMADIC MURALS: TAPESTRIES OF THE MODERN ERA*
OPENS APRIL 5, 2019 AT THE BECHTLER MUSEUM OF MODERN ART**

**In-Depth Exhibition Features Over 40 Modern and Contemporary Tapestries by Such Artists
as
Alexander Calder, Ebony Patterson, Pablo Picasso, and Le Corbusier**



**Le Corbusier, *Le canape II (The Sofa II)*, 1934-1956
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Charlotte, North Carolina (February 26, 2019) — The Bechtler Museum of Modern Art in Charlotte, North Carolina presents *Nomadic Murals: Tapestries of the Modern Era*, an exploration and presentation of over 40 tapestries created by artists usually associated with painting, sculpture, and architecture, including Alexander Calder, Le Corbusier, Ebony Patterson, and Pablo Picasso among many others. On view from April 5 to December 1, 2019, the exhibition will highlight the museum's in-depth collection of tapestries from the mid-20th century, as well as shed light on a unique medium that has been important to many great Modern and contemporary artists. This will be the first time that the museum's entire

tapestries collection will be on view at once. The tapestries will be hung alongside the artists' work in more familiar media to demonstrate both the stylistic consistency and the unique contributions textile production brought to their oeuvre. The title of the exhibition stems from Le Corbusier's essay "Tapestries: Nomadic Murals."

Tapestries, a centuries-old tradition, found renewed attention and invention over the last century, in particular by artists from the 20th century who tackled a venerated practice with avant-garde zeal. Some artists adapted existing images into commercial production, giving the 20th-century medium of the multiple a high design expression. Others became intrigued by the tapestry revival initiated in France by the artist and scholar Jean Lurçat and the tapestry producer Marie Cuttoli, both of whom worked closely with their contemporaries to develop an appreciation for the tradition while incorporating the new visual languages of abstraction, cubism, and surrealism.

Nomadic Murals: Tapestries of the Modern Era will feature important tapestries by Modern masters from Marc Chagall and René Magritte to Joan Miró and Frank Stella among many others. Five newly conserved tapestries by Alexander Calder, Diego Giacometti, Fernand Léger, Roy Lichtenstein, and Pablo Picasso in the museum's collection—made possible by the Bank of America Art Conservation Project grant—will be on view for the first time, and eight exceptional tapestries by Le Corbusier between 1948 and 1965 will travel from the Le Corbusier Foundation in Paris. Other highlights with strong connections to Charlotte and the Bechtler Museum include two works by Charlotte-born African-American artist Romare Bearden, and several geometric tapestries by Mario Botta, the Swiss architect behind the Bechtler Museum's building. These modern masterpieces will be in dialogue with several contemporary works by artists such as Fred Tomaselli, Kiki Smith, Peter Blake, and others.

John Boyer, President and CEO of the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art, noted, "Tapestry has a wide appeal to a variety of audiences for its intricate beauty and its transferability. Our museum is eager to explore and celebrate this remarkable work by so many major figures of 20th century modernism as well as select artists working today in this splendid medium. North Carolina is a particularly interesting place to present this exhibition, as the community has a rich history of textile production and continues to be a leader in today's cutting-edge technology and design."

Jay Everette, Senior Vice President, Wells Fargo Corporate Philanthropy and Community Relations, added, "Wells Fargo's Private Bank is honored to serve as the lead presenting funder for this extraordinary exhibition. We were intrigued by the Bechtler's vision to present these compelling modern artists' work in a tapestry medium, which makes the exhibition so unique. The Wells Fargo Foundation has funded previous exhibitions of Romare Bearden's collage and watercolors, so we were especially excited to see his works included in this new tapestry medium."

A catalogue including essays by John Boyer, President and CEO of the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art, and Katharine Wells, Assistant Professor of American Art and Architecture at the University of Wisconsin, as well as an interview with textile conservator Patricia Ewer, will accompany the exhibition.

Wells Fargo's Private Bank is the lead presenting funder and sponsor of the exhibition. Funding for the conservation of five works in the exhibition was generously provided through a grant from the Bank of America Conservation Project. The exhibition is also made possible through the generous support of McCracken & Lopez, PA in honor to the Charlotte architects that we have served over the past 40 years, and John Thompson and Lee Rocamora and Dave and Cassandra Wagner.

This exhibition is presented to the community by



THE PRIVATE BANK

About the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art

The Bechtler Museum of Modern Art opened in Charlotte, North Carolina, on January 1, 2010. The majority of the museum's holdings originated with Hans and Bessie Bechtler, Swiss collectors based in Zurich, who mainly collected European modern art created during the mid-20th century. Their son, Andreas Bechtler, donated the majority of his collection to the city of Charlotte and to house it the City hired renowned Swiss architect Mario Botta to design the museum. The building and the Niki de Saint Phalle sculpture, *L'Oiseau de Feu sur l'Arche (The Firebird)*, which stands in front of it, have already become icons for the region. The collection holds over 1,500 works by Alberto and Diego Giacometti, Joan Miró, Alexander Calder, Jean Tinguely, Le Corbusier, Pablo Picasso, Alfred Manessier, Gustave Singier, Pierre Soulages, Max Ernst, Jasper Johns, Roy Lichtenstein, Andy Warhol (who executed the family portraits), Meret Oppenheim, Tom Wesselmann, Kenneth Noland, Victor Vasarely, Hans Hartung, Jean-Paul Riopelle, Mark Tobey, Sam Francis, Paul Klee, Georges Rouault, Fernand Léger, Nicolas de Staël, Eduardo Chillida, Barbara Hepworth, Henry Moore, Ben Nicholson, and others.

For more information, please visit <http://bechtler.org>.

Media Contact

Yun Lee / FITZ & CO / +1-646-589-0920 / ylee@fitzandco.art