



Norman B. Leventhal
Map & Education Center
at the Boston Public Library

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Anastasia Nicolaou
650.380.9440 cell
617.695.0369 office

Leventhal Map & Education Center explores relationships between art and maps in new exhibition

“Crossing Boundaries: Art//Maps” goes on view October 9

Boston, MA – Today, the Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center at the Boston Public Library announces the upcoming opening of *Crossing Boundaries: Art//Maps*. The exhibition explores the ways in which artists traverse the traditional boundaries of cartography and art. Maps spanning several centuries and contemporary works of art are juxtaposed to create a dialogue between geographic representation and how artists use cartographic imagery to explore themes rarely touched by conventional mapmakers.



Heidi Whitman “Mappamundi” 2018 (left)
Pierre Le Rouge [Circular World Map] 1488 (right)

The exhibition is on view October 9, 2018 through April 21, 2019, in the Leventhal Map Gallery, at the Boston Public Library, Central Library in Copley Square.

Crossing Boundaries: Art//Maps is organized into five groupings, suggesting themes important to both artists and mapmakers: Order Out of Chaos, Projections & Distortions, Coastlines & Waterways, Urban Life, and Borders & Conflicts. While historical maps are displayed, the contemporary art paired with them reminds us that these subjects are as relevant today as they were in ages past.

Connie Chin, President of the Leventhal Map & Education Center, says “We welcome back former Executive Director Jan Spitz to organize this exhibition, which is a fresh take on art and cartographic inspiration, and also showcases some of the fascinating treasures of the collection.”

“I’ve always seen maps as art,” adds Jan Spitz. “By comparing maps with contemporary art, we see creativity and cartography from a new perspective.”

“Throughout my years working in public art, the commissioning agencies would send floor plans, blueprints, elevations - in short, maps - from which I would make a model and begin imagining the piece. About 25 years ago, I began to explore mapping as a scaffold for my private art as well, a structure into which I could weave layers of content. Many artists work with maps, and always have,” says Joyce Kozloff, whose work *Boys’ Art #24: Siege of Antibes*, will be featured in the exhibition. “They interest me because they reflect the history, culture and politics of the time and place in which they were created.”

Exhibition visitors will be invited to join the *What Did You See?* table, an interactive component designed for this show. They can play a game with family, friends or other visitors to share impressions about the works of art and the maps. Comparing viewpoints with others will expand the experience for all, and everyone is encouraged to join in the fun.

The Map Center will be hosting three evenings to engage in art-making activities with artists from the exhibition. The first event will be Thursday, November 15th from 6pm – 8pm. Registration is required, please visit Eventbrite and sign-up for “Crossing Boundaries: Art // Maps – Evening with the Artist”. The second two events are scheduled for Thursday, January 17, 2019, and Thursday, March 7, 2019 and registration information will be available closer to event dates. A panel discussion with artists from the exhibit will be hosted in the winter of 2019, date and time to be released.

Crossing Boundaries: Art//Maps is open Monday-Thursday: 10am-7pm, Friday & Saturday: 10am-5pm, and Sundays: 1pm-5pm in the Leventhal Map Gallery, located on the main floor of the Central Library in Copley Square. As part of this exhibition, works by the following artists will be on display: Mary Armstrong, Abel Barroso, Tony Berlant, Jonathan Callan, Tiffany Chung, Kirsten Fisher, Carly Glovinski, Abby Goldstein, Alexander Gorlizki, Joyce Kozloff, Daniel McDonald, Abelardo Morell, Bruce Myren, Naoe Suzuki, Heidi Whitman, Richard Youngstrom. Visit the exhibition website at leventhalmap.org.

About the NORMAN B. LEVENTHAL MAP & EDUCATION CENTER AT THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center is ranked among the top map centers in the United States for the size of its collection, the significance of its historic (pre-1900) material, its advanced digitization program, and its exceptional exhibitions and educational programs.

The Center’s mission is to use its extensive map collections to inspire curiosity and learning among people of all ages, illuminating history, geography, world cultures, science, and contemporary issues. The Center offers a robust selection of K-12 education programs for students of all levels, develops and disseminates lesson plans, and trains teachers to use maps effectively and creatively in the classroom. Public programming includes changing exhibitions, lectures, workshops, classes, and family programs. An extensive website offers free access to nearly 10,000 high resolution digitized maps of historical significance, virtual exhibitions, geo-referencing capabilities, and a Tools for Teachers section with map sets and classroom activities.

The Center was established by philanthropist Norman Leventhal as a public-private partnership with the Boston Public Library and was incorporated as a nonprofit organization in 2007. The Center stewards the Boston Public Library's permanent collection of 200,000 maps and 5,000 atlases and a select group of rare maps collected by Mr. Leventhal. The collection, the second largest in the country located in a public library, is freely available for academic and public research. To learn more, visit leventhalmap.org

About BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Boston Public Library provides educational, cultural and civic enrichment, free to all, for the residents of Boston, Massachusetts and beyond, through its collections, services, programs, and spaces. Established in 1848, the Boston Public Library is a pioneer of public library service in America. It was the first large free municipal library in the United States, the first public library to lend books, the first to have a branch library, and the first to have a children's room. As a City of Boston historic cultural institution, Boston Public Library today features a Central Library, twenty-five branches, a map center, business library, archival center; extensive special collections of rare books, manuscripts, photographs, and prints; and rich digital content and online services. The award-winning renovation of the Central Library in Copley Square, completed in 2016, together with new, renovated and historic branches, provide a transformed library system for the next generation of users. Boston Public Library enriches lives, hosting thousands of free educational programs and exhibitions, and providing free library services online and in-person to millions of people each year.

To learn more, visit bpl.org

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