

The Top 10 Exhibitions to See in April 2023

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Pacita Abad, *L.A. Liberty*, 1992, acrylic, cotton yarn, plastic buttons, mirrors, gold thread, painted cloth on stitched and padded canvas, 239 × 147 cm. Courtesy the Pacita Abad Art Estate

Pacita Abad

Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, 15 April – 3 September

Pacita Abad is increasingly being recognised as among the trailblazers of diasporic Philippine artists in the late twentieth century. Abad is often thought of as Philippine-American (having lived in the US on and off between 1970 and 1994, and whose husband was American, making her a US citizen), but her residencies in numerous countries (such as Bangladesh, Kenya and Dominican Republic) and nonstop travel for her husband's economic work made her particularly empathetic to the cultural and political effects of globalisation on society. Her practice became an amalgamation of the diverse cultures she worked and found herself in by introducing local art techniques such as Indonesian batik or Korean ink brush painting. This first-ever retrospective, then, brings together the breadth of Abad's work, from her traditional paintings to her hybrid trapunto works of quilted stuffed canvases. Through these works, Abad articulated her own 'special obligation to remind society of its social responsibility'. [*Marv Recinto*](#)