

the Davis.

DAVIS MUSEUM AT WELLESLEY COLLEGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Newly acquired prints, drawings, photographs and books
comprise exciting new exhibition, *Better on Paper*, at the Davis**

On view - free and open to the public - from February 7 to June 1, 2025



Taiye Idahor, Ekundayo, 2018, Photo paper collage, ink, and color pencil on paper, Museum purchase, Marjorie Schechter Bronfman '38 and Gerald Bronfman Endowment for Works on Paper 2019.948, Courtesy of the artist

WELLESLEY, MASS. (January 2025) – [Better on Paper](#) is a new exhibition that spotlights and celebrates some of the thousands of newly acquired and previously unseen works of art on paper, including prints, drawings, photographs, books, and other objects, acquired by [the Davis Museum](#) and the [Wellesley College Library Special Collections](#) over the last decade.

The exhibition emphasizes contemporary art, while also showcasing many new acquisitions of art from past centuries. More than 100 recent gifts and purchases will be on view in *Better on Paper* from February 7 to June 1, 2025, along with two other new exhibitions at the Davis Museum all highlighting new acquisitions. An [opening night party](#) will be held Thursday, Feb. 6 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and is open to the public.

“*Better on Paper* presents a stunning array of visionary works of art from Wellesley’s collections in this collaboration between the College Library’s Special Collections and the Davis,” said Amanda Gilvin, the exhibition’s Co-Curator, and Interim Co-Director, Sonja Novak Koerner '51 Senior Curator of Collections, and Associate Director of Curatorial Affairs.

The exhibition calls attention to Wellesley’s decades-long leadership in the field of the study of photography, Gilvin said. She notes works that will be on view and are now part of the Davis collection include Nigerian artist Taiye Idahor’s *Ekundayo*; prominent African American photographer in the 1970s and 1980s Ming Smith’s *Self Portrait, Harlem, NY*; work by locally-based multimedia artist Jo Sandman; Chitra Ganesh’s *Architects of the Future, City Inside Her*; and Magdalena van de Passe after Crispijn de Passe the Elder’s *Spring*. Special Collections will present 18th century publisher John Pike’s satirical fan *The Land of Matrimony [and] Land of Celibacy* and Swiss graphic designer Romano Hänni’s artist book *It is Bitter to Leave Your Home: A True Story Depicted in Typographic Images*.

The Davis and the Wellesley College Library Special Collections have joined together to mount *Better on Paper* to pay homage to these new acquisitions that represent Wellesley’s commitment to inclusive excellence. Often collaborating with Wellesley faculty, staff, and students, curators have acquired the objects in the exhibition to support and expand the Wellesley College curriculum. The prints, drawings, photographs, books, and other objects in *Better on Paper* originate from around the globe, spanning diverse makers and approaches, and dating to many periods.

“It is a tremendous opportunity for the College Library’s Special Collections to be off the shelves and on view to a wider audience,” said Ruth R. Rogers, Curator of Special Collections and Visiting Lecturer, Art Department. “*Better on Paper* allows us to share a selection from the range of international, rare books, contemporary artists’ books, and other evidence of material communication that are the basis of teaching and research on campus.

Building these collections supports today’s Wellesley Method: object-based and human-centered learning across disciplines. “We invite you to study, learn, and teach in this exhibition—and to find out more about the many other works on paper in the Davis Museum and Special Collections,” Gilvin said.

This exhibition was co-curated by Gilvin and Rogers with contributions from Nicole Berlin, Associate Curator of Collections, Alicia Bruce, Friends of Art Curatorial Project Manager and Researcher, Yuhua Ding, Kemper Assistant Curator of Collections and Academic Affairs, L. Goins '26, 2024 Summer Curatorial Intern, James Oles, Adjunct Curator of Latin American Art and Senior Lecturer, Art Department, Mariana S. Oller, Associate Curator of Special Collections, and Semente, Curator of Education and Public Programs.

Better on Paper is presented at the Davis with generous support from the Anonymous '70 Endowed Museum Program Fund, Marjorie Schechter Bronfman '38 and Gerald Bronfman Endowment for Works on Paper, and Wellesley College Friends of Art at the Davis.

The Davis Museum is free and open to the public Tuesdays to Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, please call 781-283-2051 or visit <https://www1.wellesley.edu/davismuseum/visit/directions>.

ABOUT THE DAVIS MUSEUM

A vital resource for communities on the Wellesley College campus and beyond, the Davis Museum is one of the oldest and most acclaimed academic fine art museums in the United States. Its signature Rafael Moneo building houses collections that span the history of art worldwide, from antiquity to the present. Guided by commitments to diversity and inclusion, excellence and innovation, and access for all, the Davis is at the core of Wellesley's liberal arts mission of educating women to make a difference in the world. With exceptional encyclopedic holdings, rotating special exhibitions, and enriching public programs, the Davis warmly welcomes all visitors, including scholars and students of all ages. For visitor information: <https://www.wellesley.edu/davismuseum/visit/directions>.

ABOUT WELLESLEY COLLEGE AND THE ARTS

The Wellesley College arts curriculum and the highly acclaimed Davis Museum are integral components of the College's liberal arts education. Departments and programs from across the campus enliven the community with world-class programming— classical and popular music, visual arts, theatre, dance, author readings, symposia, and lectures by some of today's leading artists and creative thinkers—most of which are free and open to the public.

Since 1875, Wellesley College has been a leader in providing an excellent liberal arts education for women who will make a difference in the world. Its 500-acre campus near Boston is home to some 2,400 undergraduate students from 49 states and 58 countries.

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