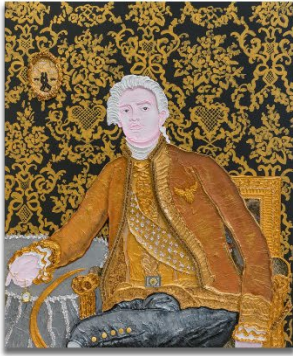


MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS ST. PETE

MEDIA ALERT:

Artist Yvette Mayorga to Unveil *Goddesses of the Great Hall* in Conversation with Curator Katherine Pill



Opening June 20, the exhibition follows the overwhelming public response to Mayorga's outdoor sculpture, *Magic Grasshopper*, at the MFA

ST. PETERSBURG, FL (June 16, 2026) – The Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg (MFA) welcomes multidisciplinary artist Yvette Mayorga this Saturday for the opening of her immersive installation, *Goddesses of the Great Hall*. The exhibition builds on the massive public success of her outdoor sculpture, *Magic Grasshopper*, which has captivated visitors outside the museum since March 2026. Activating the MFA's historic 1965 entrance hall, the exhibition serves as the inaugural showcase for *The Great Hall Project*, a bold curatorial endeavor within the framework of the museum's broader [Art Unbound](#) initiative that reimagines traditional spaces through contemporary interventions.

Developed in direct dialogue with the museum's 1799 painting, *Julie as Flora, Roman Goddess of Flowers* by Élisabeth Vigée-LeBrun, *Goddesses of the Great Hall* creates a striking conversation between historical ornamentation and contemporary explorations of femininity, excess, cultural memory, and power. Central to the presentation is Mayorga's self-portrait inspired by Vigée-LeBrun, shown alongside major works generously on loan. Serving as key anchors within the installation, these paintings exemplify Mayorga's signature engagement with 18th-century portraiture, bridging historical and contemporary representations of identity and self-fashioning.

The Great Hall Project: Opening Day Event

To celebrate the launch of *Art Unbound* and *The Great Hall Project*, the MFA will host a conversation with Yvette Mayorga on the opening day of the installation.

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In Conversation: Yvette Mayorga and Katherine Pill

Sat, June 20, 11am-12pm, Marly Room

In this intimate conversation, Senior Curator of Contemporary Art Katherine Pill sits down with multidisciplinary artist Yvette Mayorga, whose work links feminized labor and the aesthetics of celebration to colonial art history and racialized oppression “through the guise of using pink as a weapon of mass destruction.”

About Yvette Mayorga

Yvette Mayorga is a multidisciplinary artist based in Chicago, Illinois. Mayorga holds an MFA in Fiber and Material Studies from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. In 2023, Mayorga had her first major solo museum exhibition, *What a Time to be*, at The Momentary, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally at the Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY; Vincent Price Art Museum, Monterey Park, CA; El Museo del Barrio, The Center for Craft, Asheville, NC; Museo Universitario del Chopo, Mexico City, MX; and LACMA, Los Angeles, CA. Mayorga’s large-scale installation, *Pilgrimage to the Isle of Pink*, is on view for the next 25 years for the City of Chicago’s permanent public art collection at O’Hare International Airport’s Terminal 5. Her works are in the permanent collections of 21c Museum Hotels, Cerámica Suro, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, DePaul Art Museum, El Museo del Barrio, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Museum of Fine Arts Boston, and New Mexico State University Art Museum.

yvettemayorga.com

About Art Unbound

[Art Unbound](#) marks a profound, multi-phase evolution of the museum, including its permanent collection, indoor galleries and transitional spaces, and outdoor campus. The initiative introduces a human-centered visitor journey that invites curiosity and reflection. Designed to be accessible, the reimagination of the MFA will encourage visual conversations across time, culture, and geography to reveal the universal human themes connecting our shared world. Together with community leaders, educators, artists, and stakeholders, the transformed museum experience positions the MFA as a regional and national leader in museum innovation, scholarship, and civic engagement. For more information about *Art Unbound*, exhibition information, and to view the launch video, [click here](#). For press images and credits, [click here](#).

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About the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg

As the first art museum in St. Petersburg, the Museum of Fine Arts serves as the cultural anchor of a vibrant arts city, uniting a diverse community of artists, residents, and international visitors. The Museum’s global collection, spanning nearly 5,000 years, acts as a catalyst for connection and conversation. By bridging

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historical perspectives with contemporary discourse, the Museum broadens the artistic canon while elevating the voices and stories of historically marginalized artists. Within the Museum's holdings are exemplary works by Georgia O'Keeffe, Claude Monet, Berthe Morisot, Auguste Rodin, Kehinde Wiley, and Élisabeth Vigée-LeBrun. The Museum also houses one of the largest and most well-respected photography collections in the Southeast, featuring iconic visionaries such as Ansel Adams, Edward Steichen, Julia Margaret Cameron, Carrie Mae Weems, James Van Der Zee, and Aaron Siskind. Through dynamic exhibitions and inclusive programming, the Museum engages with more than 100,000 people annually, including thousands of students through a dedicated partnership with Pinellas County Schools. Committed to fearless creativity, the Museum fosters a welcoming environment where all are empowered to explore untold stories and challenge conventions.

Images:

Yvette Mayorga (American, b. 1991), *Rhinestone Vaquero After Élisabeth Louise Vigée Le Brun*, 2025, textile, rhinestones, buttons, belt buckle, gold flakes, silver flakes, glitter, and acrylic piping on canvas, 72 x 60 inches, Image courtesy of the artist and Monique Meloche Gallery.

Photo of Yvette Mayorga by Marzena Abrahamik, 2025

Yvette Mayorga (American, b. 1991), *Self Portrait of the Artist After Élisabeth Louise Vigée Le Brun*, 2025, textile, collage, stickers, gold flakes, silver flakes, pen, lace, buttons, acrylic nails, nail charms and acrylic piping on canvas, 72 x 60 inches, Image courtesy of the artist and Monique Meloche Gallery.

Media Contact:

Carrie Olin Elliott, Director of Marketing & Communications

celliot@mfastpete.org

727.896.2667 ext. 234

The Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg

255 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

mfastpete.org