

Brumfitt, Stuart. "Robert Mapplethorpe Retrospective to Open at LACMA," *i-D Magazine*, November 20, 2015.

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robert mapplethorpe retrospective to open at lacma



Robert Mapplethorpe: The Perfect Medium will look at his work from the 60s through to the 80s and see the shifts in his photos from pornographic work that dealt with gay culture, leather and bondage through still lifes of flowers and then to his time running a successful studio where he produced a multitude of commissioned portraits. The show's title comes from Mapplethorpe's own assertions that photography was "the perfect medium for the 70s and 80s, when everything was fast. If I were to make something that took two weeks to do, I'd lose my enthusiasm. It would become an act of labour and the love would be gone."

The Perfect Medium will also doubtless cover some of the controversy surrounding his work, including the cancellation of a 1989 show at Washington's Corcoran Gallery of Art, an obscenity trial around an exhibition of his work in Cincinnati in 1990 and claims that his series of photos of black male nudes amounted to racial fetishism. The LACMA exhibition will also be accompanied by the installation *Physical: Sex and the Body in the 1980s*, which will include around 30 works by the likes of Bruce Weber, Kiki Smith, Sarah Charlesworth, Laura Aguilar and Marina Abramovic.

Robert Mapplethorpe: The Perfect Medium runs 20th March - 31st July at The Los Angeles County Museum of Art.







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