

50 masterpieces at LACMA

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For any art museum, the permanent collection is the thing. Here are 50 works, all terrific, chosen from among hundreds of possibilities gleaned from LACMA's encyclopedic spectrum. It is not — repeat, not — a “50 best” list. That impossibility is a fool's game. Listed in chronological order, the works stick to centuries before our own, and the year LACMA acquired it is in parentheses. All but five, marked with a white “X,” are currently on public view.



Museum Associates / LACMA

Judy Fiskin

“Untitled, from ‘My Trip to New York,’” 1984 (2008)

At least since young aristocratic men in the 17th century began searching out the roots of Western civilization by going on “The Grand Tour” of Italy and France, cultural tourism has been a noble pastime. Fiskin traveled from L.A. to New York, turning a modern American version of the journey on its head: She ended up in the outer boroughs, not seeing the usual monumental Manhattan sights, but using her view camera to record thoroughly vernacular domiciles. The everyday world suddenly looks very strange.

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