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Exuberant exhibition of Pop Art icon Keith Haring headed to the CMA Radiant Vision opens September 27, 2025



Keith Haring at work in studio. Photo ©1982 Allan Tannenbaum / sohoblues.com.

Columbia, S.C. – The Columbia Museum of Art presents major fall exhibition [*Keith Haring: Radiant Vision*](#), on view from September 27, 2025, through February 15, 2026. Most recently on view at the Pop Art Museum, Seattle, this internationally touring exhibition celebrates the life and work of iconic artist Keith Haring.

“Keith Haring’s art was a pop-culture spark — fast, fearless, and drawn from the concrete heartbeat of New York,” says CMA Executive Director Della Watkins. “With *Radiant Vision*, the Columbia Museum of Art offers audiences a powerful and playful tribute to Haring’s enduring belief that art belongs to everyone.”

Born in Reading, Pennsylvania, Keith Haring (1958–1990) emerged as a shooting star of the legendary New York art scene in the 1980s. His signature images include dancing figures, a “radiant baby,” a barking dog, a flying saucer, hearts, and figures with televisions for heads. He became friends with fellow artists Kenny Scharf and Jean-Michel Basquiat and grew interested in the color graffiti art of the city’s

streets. Haring met Andy Warhol at a gallery exhibition in 1983, and Warhol became Haring's mentor, friend, and the theme of several of his pieces, including "Andy Mouse."

In the early '80s, Haring found a highly effective medium that allowed him to communicate his work with a wider audience — he created chalk drawings on the unused advertising panels in New York City subway stations. These drawings represented a unique conflation of studio practice and public art, cartoons, and graffiti. They became familiar to commuters, who would often stop to engage with the artist. He also attracted the attention of city authorities, who arrested him for vandalism on numerous occasions.

Haring was openly gay and socially conscious, and his murals often reflected his position on social issues. He sought to raise awareness of AIDS, fought against the proliferation of drugs, and advocated for the end of Apartheid. Haring's oeuvre, from street art to gallery shows, the Pop Shop, and commercial work, is deeply rooted in and reflective of the concept of "art for the people."

His simply drawn figures were soon to be found on watches and cars, T-shirts and shopping bags, turning Haring into one of the best-known artists of his generation. *Radiant Vision* is a collection that features over 250 original works including drawings on paper, lithographs, silkscreens, posters, and other items that illustrate the entire span of Haring's heartbreakingly short but incredibly prolific career.

The exhibition also includes the work of LAII (Angel Ortiz, b. 1967), an artist known for his collaborations with Haring. LAII's career took off in 1980 when Haring, fresh from the Pennsylvania suburbs, encountered his "Little Angel" tag on a New York street and sought him out.

The regional debut of *Keith Haring: Radiant Vision* will be celebrated with an [early evening preview party](#) on Friday, September 26, as well as a [playful daytime program](#) on Saturday, September 27.

Single Source Traveling Exhibition provided by [PAN Art Connections](#).

Keith Haring: Radiant Vision is presented through the support of our generous sponsors and grantors. Silver sponsor: Dominion Energy. Bronze sponsors: Dr. Suzanne R. Thorpe and Dr. John W. Baynes. Friends sponsors: Joseph Bruce; Suzanne and Robert Clawson; Metro Wines Asheville; Beth and Matthew Richardson; Sandy and Sam McGuckin. Grantors: City of Columbia; Experience Columbia SC; Richland County Government; South Carolina Arts Commission; Discover South Carolina.

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About the CMA

The Columbia Museum of Art is a charitable nonprofit organization dedicated to lifelong learning and community enrichment for all. Located in the heart of downtown Columbia, S.C., the CMA ranks among the leading art institutions in the country and is distinguished by its innovative exhibitions and creative educational programs. At the heart of the CMA and its programs is its collection, which encompasses 7,000 works and spans 5,000 years of art history. Established in 1950, the CMA now welcomes more than 150,000 visitors annually and is a catalyst for community creativity and education, engaging people of all ages and backgrounds. It is the recipient of a National Medal from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a National Art Education Association award for its contributions to arts education, a National Park Foundation Award, and two Governor's Awards for the Arts for outstanding contributions to the arts in South Carolina. To learn more, visit columbiamuseum.org.



General Info:

803-799-2810

www.columbiamuseum.org

Location:

1515 Main Street | Columbia, SC 29201

General Admission:

\$15 or less.

FREE for members.

FREE for SC residents May 24 – August 31, 2025, with the support of Art Bridges Foundation's Access for All program.

Museum Hours:

Open 6 days a week!

Tuesday – Wednesday, Friday – Sunday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Thursdays: 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.; First Thursdays: 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Closed Mondays and major holidays.

