

Mills College  
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# MILLS

**Subject: 20 Years of The Patti Smith Collection (9/14–12/11/2016) @ Mills College Art Museum; Heller Room, F.W. Olin Library**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 15, 2016

**Additional hi-res images available upon request.** <mailto:mwazwaz@mills.edu>



**Root Connection: 20 Years of The Patti Smith Collection**  
Mills College Art Museum and the Heller Room, F.W. Olin Library  
September 14–December 11, 2016

**OPENING RECEPTION: WEDNESDAY, September 14, 2016 | 6:00-8:00 PM**

**Oakland, CA—June 15, 2016** The Mills College Art Museum (MCAM) and the F.W. Olin Library are pleased to announce ***Root Connection: 20 Years of The Patti Smith Collection***, on view from September 14 to December 11, 2016. This expansive exhibition features rare and unique materials—***many never exhibited in public***—from the Special Collections of the Mills F.W. Olin Library. Photographs (both of and by Smith), publications, recordings, and ephemera are showcased together to highlight the breadth of Smith’s artistic experimentation across disciplines including (and not limited to) poetry, music, and photography.

—more—

Co-curated by Mills College Art Museum Director, Dr. Stephanie Hanor, Library Director and Special Collections Curator, Janice Braun, and Smith donor and collector, Robert Byler, this two-location exhibition presents an unusual and intimate examination of Smith's work from multiple perspectives, demonstrating the artist's on-going innovativeness and influence.

A screening room hosts short films in which Smith introduces the places, people, and cultural moments that inspire and inform her practice such as French writer Jean Genet, [Robert Frank/Kurt Cobain], and the punk eclecticism of 1970s New York's "Downtown Scene". The exhibition will also include listening stations rotating Smith's music and readings; album art; broadsides and concert announcements; personal effects (yearbooks, and a prom photo!); and international versions and various types of releases of her published works. Visitors to the library and museum are encouraged to hang-out, lounge in the museum and library reading rooms, and dig-into the evocative spread of literature and

*This exhibition is supported by [ ]*

**Image:**

### **RELATED PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

(Visit <http://mcam.mills.edu> for full details)

#### **Opening Reception**

Wednesday, September 14, 2016 | 6:00-8:00 pm

MCAM

Come celebrate the opening of *Root Connection: 20 Years of the Patti Smith Collection* with [description of any opening night programming]. Refreshments provided.

***Additional complimentary event programming schedule will be announced in early August.***

### **ABOUT THE MILLS COLLEGE ART MUSEUM**

Founded in 1925, The Mills College Art Museum is a forum for exploring art and ideas and a laboratory for contemporary art practices. Through innovative exhibitions, programs, and collections, the museum engages and inspires the intellectual and creative life of the Mills community as well as the diverse audiences of the Bay Area and beyond. [mcam.mills.edu](http://mcam.mills.edu)

Museum hours are Tuesday-Sunday 11:00 am–4:00 pm and Wednesday 11:00 am–7:30 pm. Admission is FREE for all exhibitions and programs unless noted.

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