

October 2026

Nicole Eisenman: Perpetual Motion Machine with Museum Piece con Gas

Turner Contemporary presents two major works by American artist Nicole Eisenman

14 November 2026–11 April 2027



This autumn, Turner Contemporary will present *Perpetual Motion Machine with Museum Piece con Gas* (2019) by American artist Nicole Eisenman. The dyad will go on display in the Sunley Gallery, set against the backdrop of the North Sea.

The first figure, *Perpetual Motion Machine*, is a larger-than-life bronze. Slumped and labouring, its fists bob up and down, countered by a painter's pole from which empty tuna cans jangle. Its back foot is stuck in a wad of chewing gum and slung over its shoulder are straps by which it drags along *Museum Piece con Gas*. Square wheels make progress seemingly impossible. Atop the cart is a second figure encrusted in brown wax and shaggy wool, which periodically emits jets of 'smoke' from its behind—an action Eisenman has described as a 'post-Trumpian gesture'.

Crafted from bronze, plaster, fibreglass and an array of non-traditional, quotidian materials, ranging from human hair to coffee cup lids, *Perpetual Motion Machine with Museum Piece con Gas*'s abject, unruly forms speak both to individual disenfranchisement within a chaotic political climate, and the labour of collective action. The work originates from Eisenman's monumental, 16-metre-long, sculptural assemblage *Procession*—a parade of figures first shown at the 2019 Whitney Biennial.

Since the early 1990s, Eisenman has achieved renown for works on paper, painting and, more recently, sculpture, drawing on the language of figurative art and her deep knowledge of art history to create incisive, often humorous, observations on contemporary life. At Turner Contemporary, *Perpetual Motion Machine with Museum Piece con Gas* will offer the opportunity to encounter the monumental work of an artist whose work rewards close looking. The presentation continues our commitment to bringing ambitious sculpture to Margate, creating opportunities for audiences to encounter influential artists and consider new perspectives on the world around them.

Clarrie Wallis, Director, Turner Contemporary, said: 'We are delighted to be exhibiting this major work by Nicole Eisenman for the first time in the UK. The presentation builds on Turner Contemporary's ongoing commitment to sculpture, continuing a series of ambitious projects with leading international artists including Simone Leigh and Lynda Benglis. Together, these projects reflect our ambition to bring significant works to Margate, creating opportunities for audiences to encounter sculpture in new and unexpected ways.'

Nicole Eisenman: Perpetual Motion Machine with Museum Piece con Gas will be on display in the Sunley Gallery at Turner Contemporary from **14 November 2026 until 11 April 2027**.

Eisenman's monumental sculpture *Stack* (2022–2024) is currently on view in The Annenberg Courtyard at The Royal Academy of Arts, London until February 2027.

About Nicole Eisenman

Nicole Eisenman lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. She is a MacArthur Foundation Fellow and was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 2018. Her work was included in both the 2019 Venice Biennale and the 2019 Whitney Biennial. Solo exhibitions include *What Happened* at the Museum Brandhorst, Munich, Germany (2023), travelling to Whitechapel Gallery, London, United Kingdom (2023) and MCA Chicago, Chicago, IL (2024); *Heads, Kisses, Battles: Nicole Eisenman and the Moderns* at Kunsthalle Bielefeld, Bielefeld, Germany (2021), travelling to Aargauer Kunsthhaus, Aarau, Switzerland (2022), Fondation Vincent Van Gogh, Arles, France (2022), and Kunstmuseum Den Haag, Netherlands (2022); *Giant Without a Body* at the Astrup Fearnley Museet, Oslo, Norway (2021); *Sturm und Drang* at the Contemporary Austin, Austin, TX (2020); and *Baden Baden Baden*, at the Staatliche Kunsthalle, Baden-Baden, Germany (2019).

About Turner Contemporary

Turner Contemporary is one of the UK's most visited contemporary art galleries and part of Margate's vibrant creative community. Opened in 2011 and designed by David Chipperfield, the gallery presents an ambitious programme of exhibitions, events and learning opportunities inspired by JMW Turner's legacy and his enduring connection to the town. In 2026, Turner Contemporary marks its 15th anniversary. Since opening, the gallery has played a pivotal role in the region's cultural and economic regeneration, welcoming over 5.2 million visitors and contributing more than £146 million to the local economy.

TurnerContemporary.org

Notes to Editors

Nicole Eisenman: Perpetual Motion Machine with Museum Piece con Gas

14 November 2026–11 April 2027

Turner Contemporary, Rendezvous, Margate, UK

Open: Wednesday–Sunday, & bank holidays, 11am–5pm

Press contacts

For press enquiries, contact:
Rees & Co, Fiona Russell
fiona.russell@reesandco.com
+44 (0)7917 130801

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