

Thomas Mann Democracy Will Win!

August 28 - October 25, 2024

“Throughout the world it has become precarious to take democracy for granted – even in America” - Thomas Mann: The Coming Victory of Democracy, 1938

This exhibition, Thomas Mann: Democracy Will Win! examines the life and writing of the Nobel Laureate in Literature. Literature organized by the Thomas Mann House in Southern California. Mann spoke and wrote about his political views revealing the evolution of his democratic ideals. Thomas Mann’s life offers numerous points of departure for examining the state and future of democracy - while adhering to Mann’s dictum: **“DEMOCRACY WILL WIN!”**



ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, Thomas-Mann-Archiv / TMA_2412

This traveling exhibit, a collaboration between the Max Kade Center for German Studies at Lafayette College, and the Thomas Mann House Los Angeles, is divided into two parts: the first charts the changes in Mann’s political views, while the second connects Mann’s lectures tours to current political situations in both Europe and the United States.

**SEPT
05**

Max Kade Distinguished LECTURE + RECEPTION
starting at 5:30pm at 224 Oechsle Hall (Hamilton Street)

ABOUT THE THOMAS MANN HOUSE

The Thomas Mann House in Los Angeles aims to create a vibrant transatlantic space for debate, where outstanding personalities, in dialogue with each other and the host country, address fundamental contemporary and future issues related to politics, society, and culture.



The Thomas Mann House is a residency center owned by the Federal Republic of Germany. The Thomas Mann Fellowships enable academics, pioneering thinkers, and intellectuals who live, or have lived, in Germany to tackle the pressing challenges of our time and to foster the intellectual and cultural exchange between Germany and the United States.

[more about the Thomas Mann House at https://www.vatmh.org/en/residency-program.html](https://www.vatmh.org/en/residency-program.html)

ABOUT THE TRAVELING EXHIBIT

The exhibition “Democracy Will Win!” aims to encourage visitors to engage with the topics of ‘democracy’ on two levels:

- 1. The exhibition as a place of debate about the political Thomas Mann does not tell a heroic story and does not offer a final judgement, but rather presents the ambivalences: Mann’s dedication to democracy as well as the problematic aspects of his understanding of democracy. The visitors are encouraged to form their own opinion and at the same time learn about the history of democracy through Thomas Mann’s biography.**
- 2. The exhibition as a place for debate on today’s democracy in Germany and the U.S. examines the “crises“ of democracy discussed in media and society and presents ideas of renewal and strengthening.**

The exhibition is, at the same time, an attempt to contribute to political education as a key to social participation by linking the biographical-historical exhibition about the author with current sociopolitical issues in Germany and the U.S.

[more about the exhibition at galleries.lafayette.edu/2024/06/12/thomas-mann-democracy-will-win/](https://galleries.lafayette.edu/2024/06/12/thomas-mann-democracy-will-win/)

Williams Center Gallery

317 Hamilton Street | 610.330.5603

Hours | Wednesday to Sunday 12-5 PM
Additional hours during performance evenings.

The Williams Center and Grossman Galleries, are funded in part by a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Williams Center Gallery exhibition program is presented under provisions of the Frederick Knecht Detwiller Endowment.

exhibit brought to campus by the Max Kade Center for German Studies in collaboration with the Thomas Mann House, Los Angeles and Lafayette College Art Galleries.

