

## Arts diary

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[The Guardian](#)

### Man Ray to Mapplethorpe - Baltic to showcase Elton John's photo collection

Elton John's personal art collection is to go on display in one of two major exhibitions marking a significant change in direction for Baltic Centre of Contemporary Art, Gateshead. Opening in September, the Elton John show - overseen by Jane Jackson, curator of the singer's ever-growing collection, which includes seminal works by artists from Picasso to Damien Hirst - will consist of photographs selected from the 2,500 images Elton owns. The second exhibition will feature works from the personal collection of art collector Anita Zabłudowicz.

Elton, who began acquiring photography in 1991, owns works by photographers such as Robert Mapplethorpe, Irving Penn, Man Ray and Edward Weston, some of which may be included in the exhibition. "I never get fed up with looking at the images," he says.

Zabłudowicz, who is due to set up her own gallery in London this autumn, selected the works from her collection together with Jerome Sans, the Baltic's director of programmes, and artist Mustafa Hulusi. Other artists in the show include Boo Ritson, Mark Titchner and Thomas Hirshhorn.

The two shows mark a major change in direction for Baltic, which does not own a permanent collection. Peter Doroshenko, director of Baltic, says: "We have approached Elton and Anita by asking: 'What does it mean to be a collector, who are the collectors, and what does it mean to be a collector outside London?'"

The gallery hopes the shows will encourage other collectors to display their art.