

LACMA FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LACMA'S COLLECTORS COMMITTEE BRINGS IN EIGHT NEW ACQUISITIONS

CHRISTIAN MARCLAY'S *THE CLOCK* AND AI WEIWEI SCULPTURE, *UNTITLED (DIVINE PROPORTION)*, INCLUDED IN NEW WORKS

(Los Angeles, April 18, 2011)—The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) is pleased to announce the acquisition of eight artworks through the museum's 26th Annual Collectors Committee fundraiser. The event featured a weekend of curator-led art presentations, private dinners at trustee homes, and a gala dinner—including a live auction—where members vote on artworks to add to the museum's permanent collection. This year, the eighty-three voting members raised more than \$3 million—breaking records for the third year in a row. Prior to voting, Trustee Steve Tisch stepped forward and purchased Christian Marclay's *The Clock* (2010) for the museum. Over the course of the night, other individual donors purchased artworks for the museum as well: Donald Judd's *Prototype Desk* (1978) was purchased for LACMA by Kelvin Davis in honor of his architect/artist brother, Paul Davis; an ancient Peruvian textile (1500–1600) was purchased by LACMA Trustee Camilla Chandler Frost; and an anonymous donor purchased the painted panel from Mexico (AD 1200–1400). This allowed the Collectors Committee to direct their funds towards Ai Weiwei's *Untitled (Divine Proportion)* (2006), the *Head of a Buddha* from 1000–1050 AD Japan, Craig Kauffman's *Untitled* (1969), and three Spanish *casta* paintings by Juan Patricio Morlete Ruiz (1760).

Serving as a unique opportunity for patrons to have a direct hand in shaping LACMA's collection, Collectors Committee is the museum's largest annual fundraiser and has played an essential role in acquiring significant works of art. Throughout its history, the event has made in excess of 177 acquisitions through generous donations surpassing \$23 million.

"Over the past twenty-six years the Collectors Committee has been responsible for the addition of many important works to LACMA's permanent collection," says LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director Michael Govan. "The dedication and foresight of this fundraising group has enriched curatorial departments across the museum. This year was an especially successful effort; we acquired artworks ranging from ancient Latin America, to 1000 AD Japan, to contemporary art of Los Angeles.

"Three years ago, LACMA Trustee and Collectors Committee Chair Ann Colgin brought an added dimension to the fundraiser, introducing the concept of dinners in the homes of fellow board members and featuring California chefs and vintners. We are most indebted to Ann, and to LACMA Trustee and Acquisitions Committee Chair Lynda Resnick for her ongoing championing of the museum's growing collection."

Acquired Artworks

Artworks that have been acquired through Collectors Committee include the following:

- Christian Marclay's *The Clock* (2010), a 24-hour single-channel montage constructed out of moments in cinema and television history depicting the passage of time.
- Ai Weiwei's spherical wooden structure, *Untitled (Divine Proportion)* (2006), carefully crafted using a *tenon and mortise* (nail-free joinery) technique.
- The ancient and richly painted panel (AD 1200-1400), from the region bordering Oaxaca and Guerrero in Mexico, rare in its scale and elaborate imagery.
- An ancient, wooden Heian-period *Head of a Buddha*—one of the finest sculptures of its age and size—from 1000-1050 AD Japan.
- Craig Kauffman's *Untitled* (1969), part of the artist's loop series (ten in total, each a different color), a painted-plastic hybrid between painting and sculpture.
- Donald Judd's seminal *Prototype Desk* (1978)—one of the few pieces the artist made himself—demonstrates the same philosophy about space, geometry, and proportion that characterizes his body of sculpture.
- Three *casta* paintings from a series by Juan Patricio Morlete Ruiz, circa 1760, representing the process of racial mixing among Indians, Spaniards, and Africans in colonial Mexico: *VII. From Spaniard and*

Morisca, Albino (De español y morisca, albino), IX. *From Spaniard and Albino, Return Backwards* (De español y albina, torna atrás), *From Spaniard and Return Backwards Hold Yourself Suspended in Mid Air* (De español y torna atrás, tente en el aire), circa 1760.

- The intricately woven Peruvian textile, *Hanging or Mantle* (1500-1600), symbolic of universal order.

Collectors Committee

Since 1986, the Collectors Committee has assembled annually to acquire major artworks for LACMA's permanent collection. Funds raised over the weekend surpassed last year's record amount by nearly \$1 million; an almost forty percent increase. With 83 memberships in total—and the addition of 30 new memberships—this year's Collectors Committee has the most members to date in its twenty-six year history.

Festivities began this year on the evening of Friday, April 15, where members attended one of seven dinners hosted in the private homes of LACMA trustees, prepared in person by a celebrity chef. This year's chef participation included Josiah Citrin (Mélisse), Mario Batali (Babbo Ristorante e Enoteca), Thomas Keller (Bouchon), Ludovic Lefebvre (LudoBites), Rene Mata (Chinois on Main), Wolfgang Puck (Spago and Cut), and Brian Edwards. Additionally, each dinner was paired with fine wines from internationally renowned California vintners. In attendance to pour the wines were Daphne and Bart Araujo (Araujo Estate Wines), Ann Colgin and Joe Wender (Colgin Cellars), Young Hwa Chung and Hi Sang Lee (Dana Estates), Betty O'Shaughnessy and Paul Woolls (O'Shaughnessy Estate Winery), Gail and Carmen Policy (Casa Piena), Anne and Chuck McMinn (Vineyard 29), and Heather and Justin Smith (Saxum Vineyards).

On the morning of Saturday, April 16, members gathered at LACMA to attend curator presentations and view the artworks proposed for addition to the permanent collection. At the Collectors Committee Gala later that evening, members voted to select which artworks to acquire, while enjoying a special dinner prepared by Joachim Splichal (Patina). Adding to the pool for acquisition funds was a short live auction, chaired by recently appointed LACMA Trustee Viveca Paulin-Ferrell, which brought in a total of \$435,000. Photographs by artists Catherine Opie and Robert Mapplethorpe (a donation from the Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation in celebration of LACMA

and the J. Paul Getty Trust's recent joint acquisition of the Mapplethorpe Foundation's art and archival materials), vacations at private estates in Mexico and Aspen, a South Pacific adventure aboard a private yacht, and a day trip by private plane to Marfa, Texas with Director Michael Govan to view artist Donald Judd's home and studio were just a handful of the lots sold in this year's auction.

About LACMA

Since its inception in 1965, LACMA has been devoted to collecting works of art that span both history and geography and represent Los Angeles's uniquely diverse population. Today, the museum features particularly strong collections of Asian, Latin American, European, and American art, as well as a contemporary museum on its campus. With this expanded space for contemporary art, innovative collaborations with artists, and an ongoing Transformation project, LACMA is creating a truly modern lens through which to view its rich encyclopedic collection.

Location and Contact: 5905 Wilshire Boulevard (at Fairfax Avenue), Los Angeles, CA, 90036 | 323 857-6000 | lacma.org

Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: noon-8 pm; Friday: noon-9 pm; Saturday, Sunday: 11 am-8 pm; closed Wednesday

General Admission: Adults: \$15; students 18+ with ID and senior citizens 62+: \$10

Free General Admission: Members; children 17 and under; after 5 pm weekdays for L.A. County residents; second Tuesday of every month; Target Free Holiday Mondays

Press Contact: For additional information, contact LACMA Communications at press@lacma.org or 323 857-6522.

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