

# LACMA FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## LACMA'S COLLECTORS COMMITTEE MAKES SEVEN ACQUISITIONS

### \$2.8 MILLION RAISED TOWARD WORKS BY ALBRECHT DÜRER, SHIRIN NESHAT, ROBERT RAUSCHENBERG, AND MORE

(Los Angeles, April 23, 2012)—The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) announces the acquisition of seven artworks through the museum's annual Collectors Committee gala fundraiser on Saturday, April 21, including Robert Rauschenberg's 1970 large-scale screenprint *Currents*, German Renaissance master Albrecht Dürer's engraving *Saint Jerome in His Study*, a Louis Sullivan-designed elevator surround from the Chicago Stock Exchange Building, and more.

Chaired by LACMA trustee Ann Colgin, Collectors Committee Weekend is one of the museum's biggest fundraising events each year. All told, the seventy-nine members of the 2012 Collectors Committee raised \$2.8 million for art acquisitions.

Before members could vote to acquire artworks using their membership dues, LACMA trustee Jamie McCourt purchased *Speechless*, from artist Shirin Neshat's seminal 1993-97 series *Women of Allah*, for the museum. Later in the evening, Bruce Conner's three-channel video work *Three Screen Ray* was purchased for the museum by Brad and Colleen Bell, Victoria Jackson and Bill Guthy, Jane and Marc Nathanson, and Steve Tisch. Collectors Committee members Irene Christopher and Scott M. Delman each generously contributed funds to a twelfth-century Japanese Buddhist sculpture known as *Fudō Myōō: The Indomitable Foe of Evil*. Two paintings by eighteenth-century New Spanish painter Nicolás Enríquez were acquired in part through funds donated by Kelvin Davis, Lynda and Stewart Resnick, Kathy and Frank Baxter, Beth and Joshua Friedman, and Jane and Terry Semel. Additional funds were contributed by Gail and Tony Ganz toward the Robert Rauschenberg artwork, and by Philippa Calnan toward the Albrecht Dürer engraving.

"Over twenty-seven years, Collectors Committee has made a tremendous impact on LACMA's collection," said LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director Michael Govan. "This weekend's acquisition of seven incredible artworks builds on that legacy. We are grateful to the efforts of Ann Colgin, serving as Chair of the Collectors Committee for the fourth consecutive year, and to Lynda Resnick, Chair of the museum's Acquisitions Committee, for their passionate dedication to helping LACMA grow its collection."

Speaking about the acquisition of Shirin Neshat's *Speechless*, Govan added, "I am grateful to Jamie McCourt for her generous purchase of *Speechless* for the museum, which adds an important work to our collection by one of the most noteworthy artists of our times. I know that the acquisition of this artwork is very much in the spirit of her values – it is a strong statement for women artists and is politically and socially relevant to the current day."

The 2012 Collectors Committee Weekend began on Friday, April 20, with exclusive dinners for Collectors Committee members in the homes of eight LACMA trustees, each prepared by celebrity chefs and paired with wines presented by renowned California vintners. On Saturday, LACMA curators presented artworks proposed for acquisition; at the annual Collectors Committee Gala on Saturday night, members enjoyed a dinner prepared by chef Joachim Splichal (Patina) and voted on which artworks to acquire.

"Collectors Committee Weekend is one of the most thrilling weekends of the year," said Ann Colgin. "Not only do its members get to enjoy fabulous dinners thanks to the world-class chefs and vintners who donate their time and talents, but we also have the opportunity to admire and support the incredible scholarship of LACMA's curators. I couldn't be happier to see these objects come into LACMA's permanent holdings."

Funds for the acquisitions were raised by Collectors Committee membership dues; additional funds were raised by a live auction held during the gala. LACMA trustee Suzanne Kayne chaired this year's auction, while fellow trustee Viveca Paulin-Ferrell served as auctioneer.

Since 1986, the Collectors Committee has yielded 184 acquisitions through the generous donations of its members, with nearly \$26 million raised over its twenty-seven year history.

## Acquired Artworks

Artworks acquired through the 2012 Collectors Committee:

- Bruce Conner's *Three Screen Ray* (1961/2006), a three-channel video based on the artist's second film, *Cosmic Ray* of 1961, including fast-paced montages of the artist's original footage juxtaposed with hundreds of images.
- German Renaissance artist Albrecht Dürer's *Saint Jerome in His Study* (1514), a meticulous print engraving depicting the scholarly and spiritual reflections of Saint Jerome.
- Two oil-on-copper paintings by distinguished eighteenth-century New Spanish (Mexican) painter Nicolás Enríquez' – *The Marriage of the Virgin* (1749) and *The Adoration of the Kings with Donor* (1741), each depicting scenes from the life of the Virgin.
- Shirin Neshat's *Speechless* (1996), from the photography series *Women of Allah*, is a black-and-white photograph capturing the intense gaze of an Iranian woman whose face is covered with an inscription from a Persian poem.
- Robert Rauschenberg's *Currents* (1970), a dense collage of newspaper clippings strewn across a sixty-foot expanse.
- An Elevator Surround from the Chicago Stock Exchange Building designed by renowned architect Louis Sullivan; the richly detailed iron frame demonstrates Sullivan's creative adaption of natural materials.
- *Fudō Myōō: The Indomitable Foe of Evil*, a rare twelfth-century Buddhist sculpture carved from one solid block of Zelkova wood.

## Friday Night Dinners

Festivities began this year on the evening of Friday, April 20, where members attended one of eight private dinners hosted by LACMA trustees,

prepared in person by a celebrity chef and paired with wine from internationally renowned California vintners. Dinners included:

Tom Colicchio, Craft  
Luc and Jodie Morlet, Morlet  
Family Vineyards  
**Hosted by Willow Bay and Bob Iger  
& Jami Gertz and Tony Ressler**

Karen and Quinn Hatfield,  
Hatfield's & the Sycamore Kitchen  
Kelly Fleming, Kelly Fleming  
Winery  
**Hosted by Jane and Marc Nathanson**

Thomas Keller, Bouchon  
Ann Colgin and Joe Wender,  
Colgin Cellars  
**Hosted by Ann Colgin and Joe  
Wender**

Edoardo Baldi, e. baldi  
Mimi DeBlasio and Bret Lopez,  
Scarecrow  
**Hosted by Jane and Terry Semel**

Michael Cimarusti, Providence  
Dana Johnson, Mark Nelson, and  
Janet Pagano, Ovid Napa Valley  
**Hosted by Beth and Josh Friedman**

Christopher Kostow, The Restaurant  
at Meadowood  
Ann and Stan Kroenke, Screaming  
Eagle  
**Hosted by Florence and Harry Sloan**

Michael Tusk, Quince  
Paul Roberts, MS, Bond Estates  
**Hosted by Victoria Jackson and  
Bill Guthy**

Dino Gatto, Rao's  
Louis and Wendy Kapcsándy,  
Kapcsándy Family Winery  
**Hosted by Steve Tisch**

Artists, actors, and musicians were also in attendance at various dinners. Artists included Doug Aitken, Chris Burden and Nancy Rubins, Barbara Kruger, James Welling, and Sharon Lockhart – the latter of whom will have an exhibition at LACMA, *Sharon Lockhart | Noa Eshkol*, opening in June. Celebrities included Will Ferrell (husband of LACMA trustee Viveca Paulin-Ferrell), David Foster, Josh Bowman, Molly Shannon, and James Spader.

### **Auction**

Since 2009 the Collectors Committee Gala has also included a short live auction of incredible lots, proceeds from which are added to the pool of funds for acquiring proposed artworks. This year's auction, chaired by trustee Suzanne Kayne, raised \$384,000 for the night. Auction lots

included a specially commissioned portrait by artist Sharon Lockhart; a children's birthday party in the gallery holding Chris Burden's *Metropolis II*; rare wines from the 2012 Collectors Committee vintners; an evening at *The Book of Mormon* in Los Angeles including a reception with one of the Tony Award-winning producers; an intimate performance by award-winning singer/songwriters David Foster and Carole Bayer Sager at a dinner prepared by Wolfgang Puck; a Women's Dinner with artist Barbara Kruger, actress Diane Keaton, chef Suzanne Goin, and vintner Ann Colgin; a luxurious tropical getaway to Phuket, Thailand; and a day trip by private plane to Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, led by Michael Govan.

**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](mailto:press@lacma.org) or 323 857-6522.

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