

LACMA Celebrates its 30th Annual Collectors Committee Weekend with Record-Breaking Acquisitions Totaling Over \$6.4 Million

Museum Acquires Five Artworks and Two Collections

(Los Angeles, April 17, 2016)—The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) announces the acquisition of five artworks and two collections during the museum’s 30th annual Collectors Committee fundraiser. Helmed by LACMA trustee, Collectors Committee chair, and Acquisitions Committee co-chair Ann Colgin, the event featured a weekend of curator-led art presentations, private dinners at the homes of major LACMA supporters, and a gala dinner—including a live auction—where members voted on artworks to add to the museum’s permanent collection. This year, the 79 voting members raised more than \$6.4 million, breaking records for the event.

“This exciting weekend is one of the highlights of my year, as we gather with friends and fellow art-lovers for two days of discovery and celebration in support of LACMA’s collection of art from all eras and cultures,” said Ann Colgin. “It is such a pleasure to enjoy wonderful dinners and good conversation on Friday evening, and then to learn from the museum’s world-renowned curators about the artworks they are presenting for acquisition this year.”

On Saturday, April 16, Michael Govan, LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director, announced the acquisition of the Mike Kaplan Poster Collection through a generous gift from an anonymous donor. The collection of some 880 posters, mostly from the Golden Age of movie poster design (1930–1950), is one of the most important collections of movie posters still in private hands. It was assembled with a connoisseur’s eye over 35 years by designer, art director, and producer Mike Kaplan, who generously donated a portion of the collection to make the acquisition possible. The collection, highlights of which will be included in future exhibitions, focuses on exceptional illustrators, motifs, studio periods, national styles, stars, directors, and film genres. Many posters are the only copy in existence, while others are the best preserved of very few remaining examples.

The gift continues an effort begun by poster expert Ralph DeLuca to increase high-level support for LACMA’s interdepartmental graphic design initiative—a program that strategically builds holdings to complement the museum’s other collecting areas, in

consultation with sister institutions such as the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures. These contributions started with a major gift of rare Russian avant-garde film posters announced during the museum's 2015 Art+Film Gala.

"This tremendously generous gift was a wonderful way to start the Collectors Committee Weekend. We anticipate the Mike Kaplan Poster Collection becoming a resource for LACMA and other museums, instilling an understanding of film history, fostering an appreciation for graphic design in that history, and inspiring artists to create unforgettable imagery. I hope this acquisition will encourage others to get behind the museum's efforts to build a world-class collection of graphic design that reflects Los Angeles's cultural heritage," said Govan.

Collectors Committee Weekend

Since 1986, Collectors Committee Weekend has been one of the museum's most significant fundraising events of the year and continues to play an essential role in acquiring important works of art for every area of its encyclopedic collection. Throughout its 30-year history, the event has acquired 208 artworks and two collections through donations totaling more than \$38 million.

Festivities began this year on the evening of Friday, April 15, where members attended one of seven dinners (details below) hosted in the private homes of major LACMA supporters, prepared in person by a celebrity chef and with wine from notable 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. Following the presentations and before evening voting began, Michael Govan announced the acquisition of Siamak Filizadeh's *Underground* series (2014) thanks to the generous support of Kitzia and Richard Goodman. At the Collectors Committee gala later that evening, emceed by LACMA trustees Ann Colgin and Ryan Seacrest, members voted to select which artworks to acquire, while enjoying a special dinner prepared by Joachim Splichal (Patina) and champagne generously provided by Krug.

Funds for the artwork acquisitions were raised by Collectors Committee membership dues, with additional funds provided by individual members. Adding to the pool for acquisition funds was a short live auction, chaired by LACMA trustee Viveca Paulin-Ferrell, which brought in more than \$675,000 (a full list of auction items is available below).

In addition, each year an artist whose work is in LACMA's collection makes an edition for Collectors Committee members who donate at the highest level. This year, artist Helen Pashgian generously created *Untitled* (2016), which was produced by LACMA with Eric Gero Editions.

"Collectors Committee's impressive legacy of support is demonstrated by the comprehensive scope of objects acquired tonight," said Govan. "I extend my sincere gratitude to Ann Colgin, Collectors Committee chair and Acquisitions Committee co-chair, for her continued devotion to this wonderful weekend of art, food, and wine. Thanks also to Ann Ziff, our Acquisitions Committee Co-Chair, for her enthusiasm for the museum's diverse collection."

Acquired Artworks

In addition to the Mike Kaplan Poster Collection, the 2016 Collectors Committee weekend made possible the acquisition of the following artworks:

- Siamak Filizadeh's *Underground* (2014), a series of 22 digitally manipulated photographs that give the impression of monumental painting. The series takes as its theme the long reign of Nasir al-Din Shah (r. 1848–1896), who was assassinated just short of his 50th jubilee. Filizadeh's king rules an underground city in 50-year intervals; he dies, is resurrected, and governs again exactly as before. The strong filmic quality of the narrative cycle and the artist's familiarity with history and art history are enhanced by his carefully honed sense of the absurd.

Purchased with funds provided by Kitzia and Richard Goodman through the 2016 Collectors Committee.

- Claes Oldenburg's *Typewriter Eraser* (1970), a unique handmade, soft sculpture kept by the artist for 46 years. For Oldenburg the eraser form is closely associated with the human figure—its head appears crowned by blue hair, and its sinuous contours float and fall in space. The Typewriter Eraser image exists in multiples in three different scales, and this is the original handmade object from which the editioned works derived.

Gift of the 2016 Collectors Committee, with additional funds provided by the Buddy Taub Foundation.

- *Oxen and Shepherds* (18th century), a pair of monumental screens by seminal painter Soga Shōhaku. Large-scale paintings such as these are exceedingly rare outside Japan and are landmarks of Japanese art.

Gift of the 2016 Collectors Committee, with additional funds provided by Janet and Marvin Jubas, Richard Wayne, Irene Christopher, Shirley and Ralph Shapiro, Janice and Charles Holland, and Margaret and David Barry.

- A grouping of over 100 single-channel videos from Electronic Arts Intermix, a media arts organization that emerged in the early 1970s as a resource for artists interested in video. Artists represented in this grouping include Ant Farm, Eleanor Antin, John Baldessari, Dara Birnbaum, Chris Burden, Joan Jonas, Mike Kelley, Bruce Nauman, Tony Oursler, Nam June Paik, Anthony Ramos, Martha Rosler, Carolee Schneemann, William Wegman, and Hannah Wilke, among others.

Gift of the 2016 Collectors Committee, with additional funds provided by Steve Tisch.

- Idelle Weber's iconic Pop art sculpture *Jump Rope* (1967–68) is the most important sculpture realized by the artist. Weber's paintings and sculpture, including *Jump Rope*, exemplify many of the characteristics identified with the Pop Art movement: references to mainstream culture, large-scale urban subjects, graphic flatness, and bright hues.

Gift of the 2016 Collectors Committee.

- *The Elevation of the Cross (Elevación de la cruz)* (1718) depicts a crucified Christ and is a masterpiece by Antonio de Torres, one of Mexico's most innovative painters of the early 18th century. This monumental painting was commissioned by the Franciscan convent church of San Luis Potosí—one of the largest and most opulent religious complexes in all of New Spain. Its acquisition bolsters LACMA's leadership in the field of Spanish colonial painting.

Gift of the 2016 Collectors Committee, with additional funds provided by Kelvin Davis

Friday Night Dinners

Chef Neal Fraser (Redbird, BLD, Fritz)

Vintners Louise & Launny Steffens, Jessica & Wesley Steffens (Vineyard 7 & 8)

Hosted by Riza Aziz

Chefs Jon Shook and Vinny Dotolo (animal, Son of a Gun, Jon & Vinny's)

Vintner Kyle MacLachlan (Pursued by Bear)

Hosted by Desiree Gruber and Kyle MacLachlan

Chef Michael Tusk (Quince, Cotogna)
Vintners Deborah and H. William Harlan (Promontory)
Hosted by LACMA trustee Janet Crown and Steve Robinson

Chef Michael Cimarusti (Providence)
Vintner Vincent Pages (Krug Champagne)
Hosted by Renvy Graves Pittman

Chef Thomas Keller (Bouchon)
Vintners Ann Colgin and Joe Wender (Colgin Cellars)
Hosted by LACMA trustee and Collectors Committee chair Ann Colgin and Joe Wender

Chef Josiah Citrin (Mélisse, Charcoal Venice)
Vintner Frédéric Engerer (Château Latour, Araujo)
Hosted by LACMA trustee Kelvin Davis

Chef Bruce Kalman (Union, Knead & Co., Pasta Bar + Market)
Vintners Annette and Doug Shafer (Shafer Vineyards)
Hosted by LACMA trustee Steve Tisch and Katia Francesconi

Auction

Auction lots included a bicycle tour of Los Angeles with LACMA trustee David Bohnett and Michael Govan; a collection of wines from celebrated 2016 Collectors Committee vintners; a private party in Random International's *Rain Room* at the museum; an artwork and studio tour by Cecily Brown; a cooking class with chefs Suzanne Goin and David Lentz; an art and architecture day trip by private plane to Fort Worth, TX with Michael Govan; a drawing by Jonas Wood; an exclusive getaway to architect Peter Zumthor's Swiss cabin; a sculpture by Alex Israel; a tasting tour of Napa Valley; a print by Robert Mapplethorpe; and a private performance by Grammy Award-winning music icon Lionel Richie.

Images from the event are available for download at Getty Images: www.gettyimages.com

About LACMA

Since its inception in 1965, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) has been devoted to collecting works of art that span both history and geography, in addition to representing Los Angeles's uniquely diverse population. Today LACMA is the largest art museum in the western United States, with a collection that includes more than 130,000 objects dating from antiquity to the present, encompassing the geographic world and nearly the entire history of art. Among the museum's strengths

are its holdings of Asian art; Latin American art, ranging from masterpieces from the Ancient Americas to works by leading modern and contemporary artists; and Islamic art, of which LACMA hosts one of the most significant collections in the world. A museum of international stature as well as a vital part of Southern California, LACMA shares its vast collections through exhibitions, public programs, and research facilities that attract over one million visitors annually, in addition to serving millions through digital initiatives such as online collections, scholarly catalogues, and interactive engagement. LACMA is located in Hancock Park, 30 acres situated at the center of Los Angeles, which also contains the La Brea Tar Pits and Museum and the forthcoming Academy Museum of Motion Pictures. Situated halfway between the ocean and downtown, LACMA is at the heart of Los Angeles.

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