

LACMA's 50th Anniversary Gala, Co-Chaired by Ann Colgin, Jane Nathanson, and Lynda Resnick, Raises \$5 Million and Featured a Live Performance by Seal

Anniversary Gala Marks Debut of *50 for 50: Gifts on the Occasion of LACMA's Anniversary*, an Exhibition of Major Gifts of Artworks Donated to the Museum

(Los Angeles—April 19, 2015) On Saturday, April 18, 2015, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) celebrated the museum's 50th anniversary at a special fundraising gala, co-chaired by LACMA trustees Ann Colgin, Jane Nathanson, and Lynda Resnick. The evening welcomed approximately 750 guests and raised \$5 million, the proceeds of which will benefit the museum's programming and acquisitions. LACMA's 50th Anniversary Gala was sponsored by Christie's.

In honor of the occasion, Mrs. Nathanson and Mrs. Resnick gifted significant works of art to the museum's collection; in addition, the two trustees led a campaign encouraging other patrons to donate or bequeath major artworks to LACMA. Gala attendees had an opportunity to preview the broad range of new gifts in a special exhibition, *50 for 50: Gifts on the Occasion of LACMA's Anniversary* (on view to the public April 26–September 13, 2015), which is sponsored by Bank of America.

"I am proud to note that the 50th Anniversary Gala has been the most successful fundraising event in the museum's history," said trustee and Acquisitions Committee Chair Lynda Resnick, who also served as gala co-chair. "But our real success is not measured in dollars nor in who attended on a single night in 2015—it is the magnificent, priceless works of art, ranging from 13th-century Africa to modern-day Los Angeles—all of which will serve as inspiration to countless visitors for years, decades, or centuries to come."

"My wish was that our gifts inspired others to make significant contributions of artwork to the 50th anniversary as we look to the next 50 years," said Jane Nathanson. "This spring marks a momentous occasion for LACMA, which has been a cornerstone of Los Angeles's cultural community for the last five decades. It has been a delight to celebrate it in high style at the Anniversary Gala."

"This has been a historic week for the museum—capping off many historic announcements in the last few months," said Michael Govan, LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director. "The newly gifted artworks on view in *50 for 50*—as well as the nearly 175 additional outstanding gifts that have been made in honor of our anniversary—are a testament to the generosity of so many patrons. Their gifts honor our past, and more importantly will belong to the future generations of visitors. My thanks go to trustees Jane Nathanson and Lynda Resnick for chairing this phenomenal gifts-of-art campaign, and to Jane and Lynda again, along with fellow trustee Ann Colgin, for chairing the spectacular gala celebration."

The 50th Anniversary Gala—produced by J. Ben Bourgeois, Inc.—began at Chris Burden's *Urban Light* on Wilshire Boulevard. As cloud drummers flanked the monumental sculpture, guests from the art, design, civic, philanthropic, entertainment, music, and fashion industries arrived on the red carpet. A cocktail reception was held in BCAM, where attendees enjoyed Krug Grande Cuvée Champagne and viewed a video montage of LACMA's movie and television appearances over the past decades. Following cocktails, the exhibition *50 for 50* was spectacularly unveiled in the Lynda and Stewart Resnick Exhibition Pavilion.

As attendees sat down for a special dinner prepared by Patina's Joachim Splichal, they were treated to an aerial performance by Strange Fruit, a Melbourne-based troupe that fuses theater, dance, and circus. Over the course of dinner, speakers included Michael Govan, gala co-chair and trustee Jane Nathanson, and co-chair of LACMA's board of trustees Andy Brandon-Gordon. Further into the evening, attendees viewed *LACMA50*, a short film commemorating the museum's 50th anniversary directed by Doug Pray.

The 50th Anniversary Gala culminated in a live performance by Seal, who performed his hits "Crazy," "Love's Divine," and "Kissed by a Rose" in addition to two songs from his forthcoming album. After his last song, guests were serenaded with a special rendition of "Happy Birthday," performed by the John Burroughs High School Powerhouse Choir.

LACMA Trustees in attendance included William H. Ahmanson, Mark Attanasio, Nicole Avant, Willow Bay, Frank E. Baxter, Mrs. Lionel Bell, Rebecka Beldegrun, David C. Bohnett, Suzanne Deal Booth, Andy Brandon-Gordon, Ann Colgin, Janet Crown, Kelvin Davis, Joshua S. Friedman, Julian Ganz Jr., Gabriela Garza, Brian Grazer, Brad Grey, Victoria Jackson, Suzanne Kayne, Bobby Kotick, Lyn Davis Lear, Bryan Lourd, Michael Lynton, Jamie McCourt, William A. Mingst, Heather Mnuchin, Wendy Stark Morrissey, Jane Nathanson, Viveca Paulin-Ferrell, Janet Dreisen Rappaport, Lynda Resnick, Carole Bayer Sager, Ryan Seacrest, Terry Semel, Florence Sloan, Eric Smidt, Michael G. Smooke,

Jonathan D. Sokoloff, Sandra W. Terner, Steve Tisch, Casey Wasserman, Walter L. Weisman, Elaine Wynn, Dasha Zhukova, and Ann Ziff.

Art world notables in attendance included Hitoshi Abe, Doug Aitken, Evgenia Citkowitz, Neil Denari, Charles Gaines, Frank Gehry, Mark Grotjahn, Jennifer Guidi, Alex Israel, Toba Khedoori, Barbara Kruger, Hans Ulrich Obrist, Catherine Opie, Helen Pashgian, Ann Philbin, Alex Prager, Sterling Ruby, Ed Ruscha, Melanie Schiff, Paul Schimmel, Patssi Valdez, DeWain Valentine, Philippe Vergne, Bill Viola, James Welling, and Firooz Zahedi.

The entertainment world was represented by Julie Bowen, Jim Carrey, Elizabeth Chambers, Laura Dern, Will Ferrell, Armie Hammer, Dustin Hoffman, Anjelica Huston, Jimmy Iovine, Jason Reitman, Liberty Ross, Liev Schreiber, Seal, Barbra Streisand, and Naomi Watts.

Elected officials included Los Angeles County Supervisors Sheila Kuehl, Don Knabe, Mark Ridley Thomas; former Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky; State Assembly Member Richard Bloom; Mayor Eric Garcetti and former Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa; and Los Angeles City Councilman Tom LaBonge.

The 50th Anniversary Gala marked the debut of *50 for 50: Gifts on the Occasion of LACMA's Anniversary* in the Resnick Pavilion. With a focus on underscoring the diversity of transformative gifts promised to all curatorial areas of the museum, the artworks featured in *50 for 50* span many centuries and cultures.

50 for 50 presents for the first time a selection of highlights from the recent, historic bequest of A. Jerrold Perenchio. Of the nearly 50 masterpieces from the 19th and 20th centuries promised to the museum, six are on view in this exhibition, including works by Edgar Degas, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, and Edouard Vuillard.

The exhibition includes four exceptional promised gifts from the collection of Jane and Marc Nathanson, works by Roy Lichtenstein, James Rosenquist, and George Segal, along with Andy Warhol's seminal *Two Marylins* (1962). Also featured in the exhibition are gifts promised from the collection of Lynda and Stewart Resnick, including masterpieces by Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres, Giambologna, and François Boucher, in addition to *Christ Blessing* (1480–85), the first Hans Memling to enter LACMA's collection and a crucial addition of one of the most important artists working in late 15th-century Flanders.

Other gifts making their debut in *50 for 50* include Claude Monet's *Two Women in a Garden* (c. 1872–73), a future gift of Wendy and Leonard Goldberg; an African *Serpent*

Headdress sculpture made by the Baga peoples, Republic of Guinea, a promised gift of trustee Bobby Kotick; and Vija Celmins's seminal 1964 painting *T.V.*, a gift of trustee Steve Tisch, marking the first painting by Celmins to enter LACMA's collection and joining Celmins' sculpture *Untitled (Comb)* (1970), acquired by LACMA in 1972.

Artists as varied as Thomas Andrew, Miguel Cabrera, Sam Doyle, Albrecht Dürer, Mark Grotjahn, David Hockney, Clementine Hunter, Donald Judd, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Glenn Ligon, Bruce Nauman, and James McNeill Whistler are represented. Singular examples of African art, French Baroque and Neoclassical painting, Spanish Colonial casta painting, self-taught vernacular American art, American Pop art, and works from the 1960s in California—at LACMA's founding—point the way toward the museum's next 50 years.

Pioneering Los Angeles artist DeWain Valentine's *Red Concave Circle* (1970) will also join LACMA's collection thanks to the generosity of Bank of America, who also sponsored the *50 for 50* exhibition.

"Bank of America's sponsorship of *50 for 50*, in addition to its gift of art, showcases the bank's commitment to the creative economy of Los Angeles," said Janet Lamkin, President of Bank of America, California. "For over 100 years, Bank of America has been investing and contributing to L.A.'s vibrant arts community. Our donation of a DeWain Valentine piece on this milestone occasion takes on additional meaning as the artist moved to Los Angeles in 1965, the year LACMA opened its doors on Wilshire Boulevard. We are so proud to help provide this piece a wonderful home here in Los Angeles."

In addition to the exhibition in the Resnick Pavilion, a number of artworks acquired in honor of the 50th anniversary are on view throughout the museum campus, including Robert Irwin's dramatic *Miracle Mile* (2013), recently acquired for the museum by Hyundai Motor Company; Giovanni Battista Lenardi's *The Assumption of the Virgin with Saints Anne and Nicholas of Myra* (1690); Frans Snyders's *Game Market* (1630s), which along with Gian Lorenzo Bernini's *Portrait of a Gentleman*, is a gift of The Ahmanson Foundation; and Kiki Smith's *Jersey Crows* (1995). Together, the works in *50 for 50* and the many other important objects now entering the collection show the greatness—and great potential—of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

The public can view *50 for 50* free of charge on its opening day, April 26, 2015, LACMA's 50th Anniversary Free Community Day.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

For the 50th Anniversary Gala, LACMA provided live social media coverage on Instagram [[@lacma](#)]. [#LACMA50](#)

Getty Images photos and video are available at <http://www.epklink.com/lacma50> or via [Getty Images](#).

Credit: LACMA's 50th Anniversary Gala is sponsored by:

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The 50th Anniversary Free Community Day is made possible by the support of LACMA's members.

All exhibitions at LACMA are underwritten by the LACMA Exhibitions Fund. Major annual support is provided by Kitzia and Richard Goodman, with general annual funding from Janet Chann and Michael Irwin in memory of George Chann, Emily and Teddy Greenspan, Jenna and Jason Grosfeld, and Lenore and Richard Wayne.

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 over 120,000 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 pre-Columbian masterpieces 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 a million visitors annually, in addition to serving millions through digital initiatives, such as online collections, scholarly catalogues, and interactive engagement at lacma.org. Situated in Hancock Park on over 20 acres in the heart of Los Angeles, LACMA is located between the ocean and downtown.

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

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

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