

LACMA Announces 2014 Art+Film Gala Honoring Barbara Kruger and Quentin Tarantino

The Fourth Annual Event, Held on Saturday, November 1, 2014, is Co-Chaired by Eva Chow and Leonardo DiCaprio

Presented by Gucci

ART+FILM

(Los Angeles, August 12, 2014)— The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) is pleased to announce the date and honorees of its 2014 Art+Film Gala. On Saturday, November 1, notables from the art, film, fashion, and entertainment industries will unite at LACMA to honor artist Barbara Kruger and filmmaker Quentin Tarantino. Celebrating its fourth year, the 2014 Art+Film Gala is co-chaired by LACMA trustee Eva Chow and actor Leonardo DiCaprio, who continue to champion the museum's film initiatives. Gucci once again shows its invaluable support as the presenting sponsor of the annual event, with Gucci Creative Director Frida Giannini as Gala Host Committee Chair.

"LACMA is the intersection of art and film in Los Angeles," said Michael Govan, LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director. "In the last four years we have mounted eight film exhibitions, collaborated with the Academy and Film Independent, and honored some of the greatest artists and filmmakers of our time. Barbara Kruger and Quentin Tarantino have both created indelible, unforgettable images which will spark imaginations for years to come."

Gala Co-Chair Eva Chow added, "I am happy to once again co-chair this event with Leonardo DiCaprio. The Art+Film Gala has become one of the most fabulous events of the year in Los Angeles, the creative capital of the world—all in support of the museum's efforts to bring art and film to the public. Our thanks go to Gucci, who have sponsored the Art+Film Gala every year."

"LACMA's unparalleled commitment to honoring fine art alongside film in the heart of Los Angeles is an inspiration to Gucci," said Gucci Creative Director Frida Giannini.

"We are proud to support LACMA's unique vision, and to join Eva Chow, Michael Govan, and Leonardo DiCaprio for the fourth year as we celebrate two truly innovative, inspiring and influential artists, Barbara Kruger and Quentin Tarantino."

2014 ART+FILM HONOREES

About Barbara Kruger

Barbara Kruger's career has spanned over 40 years. Known internationally for her iconic and provocative body of work, including *I Shop Therefore I Am* (1987), *Your Body is a Battleground* (1989), and *Too Big to Fail* (2012), among others. She has created the immersive multi-channel video installations *Twelve* (2004) and *The Globe Shrinks* (2011) in addition to large scale images in public places. Her pictures and words have appeared in massive room wraps at museums and galleries worldwide. She was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Medal at the Venice Biennale in 2005.

Through ironic appropriation of words, and imagery, Kruger deploys the conventions of mass communication in order to challenge the often manipulative logic at work in the language of advertising, television, film, digital platforms, and other media. This is most evident in Kruger's careful skewing of familiar idioms to generate doubt, laughter, and outrage. The work plays around with issues of power, pleasure, pain, desire, and mortality, and creates commentary about the flow of capital and the anthropologies at work in cultures and sub-cultures in and out of the so-called "art world".

Born in Newark in 1945, Kruger now lives in Los Angeles and New York. After attending Syracuse University, she went on to study Art with Diane Arbus at Parson's School of Design in New York.

Barbara Kruger's most iconic aesthetic in which fragments of photo-based images are overlaid with short phrases or captions—typically drawing upon a palette of black, white, and red—owe much to her early career in graphic design at Condé Nast Publications, in particular the leading fashion magazine *Mademoiselle* where she was promoted to lead designer, and at *House and Garden* where she could engage her long standing interest in architecture and built environments.

Addressing issues of language and sign, Kruger has often been grouped with such feminist postmodern artists as Jenny Holzer, Sherrie Levine, and Cindy Sherman. Like Holzer and Sherman, in particular, she uses the techniques of mass communication and advertising to explore gender and identity. Kruger is considered to be part of the Pictures Generation—the formal labeling of a group of artists known for their appropriation of images from a media saturated age.

“Barbara Kruger’s work is nothing short of definitive,” said Govan. “Her practice exists at the crossroads of art, architecture, graphic design, and activism. Few other artists wield language as forcefully in their work as Barbara. Her piece *Untitled (Shafted)*, installed in the massive elevator shaft in LACMA’s Broad Contemporary Art Museum, has become one of the touchstones of the museum.”

About Quentin Tarantino

With his vibrant imagination and dedication to richly layered storytelling, Quentin Tarantino has established himself as one of the most celebrated filmmakers of his generation. Tarantino’s most recent film *Django Unchained* was his highest-grossing project to date, featuring an all-star cast including Jamie Foxx, Leonardo DiCaprio, Christoph Waltz, Kerry Washington, and Samuel L. Jackson. Released in theaters on Christmas Day 2012, *Django Unchained* was recognized with numerous accolades. Named one of the top ten films of the year by the American Film Institute, *Django Unchained* earned five BAFTA nominations, five Golden Globe nominations, and five Academy Award® nominations, including Best Picture. Tarantino went on to win the Academy Award®, BAFTA, and Golden Globe for Best Original Screenplay.

Inglourious Basterds, Tarantino’s World War II epic, assembled a renowned international cast, including Brad Pitt, Diane Kruger, Michael Fassbender, Melanie Laurent, Til Schweiger, Mike Myers, and Christoph Waltz, who won an Academy Award® for his portrayal of Colonel Hans Landa. First shown in competition at the Cannes Film Festival, *Inglourious Basterds* was a critical and box office sensation, garnering numerous awards, including six BAFTA nominations, ten Critics’ Choice nominations (and wins for Best Ensemble, Best Screenplay, and Best Supporting Actor), and four Golden Globe nominations. *Inglourious Basterds* was nominated for eight Academy Awards®, including Best Picture, Best Screenplay, and Best Achievement in Directing.

Prior to *Inglourious Basterds*, Tarantino thrilled audiences with *Death Proof*, starring Kurt Russell and Zoë Bell. Paired domestically with Robert Rodriguez’s *Planet Terror* on a double bill called *Grindhouse*, *Death Proof* was shown in competition at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival.

In Tarantino’s *Kill Bill Vol. 1* and *Kill Bill Vol. 2*, Uma Thurman, as “The Bride,” enacted a “roaring rampage of revenge” on her former lover and boss, played by David Carradine. Shot in China, Japan, the United States, and Mexico, the film co-starred Lucy Liu, Daryl Hannah, Vivica A. Fox and Michael Madsen as Carradine’s team of assassins.

Tarantino wrote and directed *Jackie Brown*, a crime caper loosely based on Elmore Leonard's novel *Rum Punch*, starring Pam Grier, Robert Forster, Samuel L. Jackson, Robert De Niro, Bridget Fonda and Michael Keaton. Grier garnered both Golden Globe and SAG Award nominations for her performance in the title role. Forster was nominated for an Academy Award® for Best Supporting Actor, and Jackson won the Silver Bear for Best Actor at the Berlin International Film Festival for his performance as Ordell Robbie.

Tarantino co-wrote, directed, and starred in *Pulp Fiction*, which won numerous critics' awards, a Golden Globe and Academy Award® for Best Screenplay, and the Palme D'Or at the 1994 Cannes Film Festival. (Tarantino made a return visit to Cannes ten years later to take on the prestigious role of jury president.) The time-bending crime drama stars John Travolta, Bruce Willis, Uma Thurman, Samuel L. Jackson, Harvey Keitel, Tim Roth, Amanda Plummer, and Christopher Walken.

Tarantino wrote, directed and starred in *Reservoir Dogs*, which made an auspicious debut at the Sundance Film Festival and marked the beginning of Tarantino's career as a filmmaker. *Reservoir Dogs* co-stars Tim Roth, Michael Madsen, Chris Penn, Steve Buscemi, and Harvey Keitel.

Following the success of *Reservoir Dogs*, the screenplays that Tarantino wrote during his tenure as a video store clerk became hot properties: Tony Scott directed Christian Slater and Patricia Arquette in *True Romance*, and Robert Rodriguez directed George Clooney and Salma Hayek in *From Dusk Till Dawn*. In addition to their collaborations *From Dusk Till Dawn* and *Grindhouse*, Tarantino also joined Rodriguez as a special guest director on his hit *Sin City*.

Tarantino joined Rodriguez, Allison Anders and Alexandre Rockwell by directing, writing and executive producing a segment of the omnibus feature *Four Rooms*. For television, Tarantino directed the season five finale of *CSI*. The episode, titled "Grave Danger" garnered Tarantino an Emmy nomination for Outstanding Directing for a Drama Series. Tarantino made his television directorial debut in 1995 with an episode of the long-running drama *ER*.

Tarantino's diverse work as a producer exemplifies both his commitment to first-time filmmakers and his support for his experienced peers and colleagues. Tarantino served as an executive producer on Eli Roth's *Hostel* and *Hostel: Part II*, Roger Avary's *Killing Zoe*, Katrina Bronson's *Daltry Calhoun*, and Robert Rodriguez's *From Dusk Till Dawn*.

The longtime fan of Asian cinema presented Yuen Wo Ping's *Iron Monkey* to American audiences in 2001 and Zhang Yimou's *Hero* in 2004.

For more information about the 2014 Art+Film Gala tickets and table sales, contact artandfilm@lacma.org or 323.932.5878.

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.

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About Gucci

Founded in Florence in 1921, Gucci is one of the world's leading luxury fashion brands. With a renowned reputation for quality and Italian craftsmanship, Gucci designs, manufactures and distributes highly desirable products such as leather goods (handbags, small leather goods, and luggage), shoes, ready-to-wear, silks, timepieces and fine jewelry. Eyewear and fragrances are manufactured and distributed under license by global industry leaders in these two sectors. Gucci products are sold exclusively through a network of directly operated boutiques (485 as of September 2014) and through e-commerce, as a valuable complementary business channel. Gucci products are also distributed through a small number of franchises, and selected department and specialty stores. Gucci is part of the Kering Group, a world leader in apparel and accessories which develops an ensemble of powerful Luxury and Sport & Lifestyle brands. For more information about Gucci, please visit www.gucci.com.

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