

LACMA Announces 2017 Art+Film Gala Honoring Mark Bradford and George Lucas

The Seventh Annual Event, Held on Saturday, November 4, 2017, Is Co-Chaired by Eva Chow and Leonardo DiCaprio

Presented by Gucci

ART+FILM

(Los Angeles, August 2, 2017)—The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) announces the date and honorees of its 2017 Art+Film Gala. On Saturday, November 4, notables from the art, film, fashion, and entertainment industries will gather at LACMA to honor artist Mark Bradford and filmmaker George Lucas. Now in its seventh year, the 2017 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.

“LACMA has enjoyed a long relationship with Mark, from our first purchase of his work in 2002 as part of the museum’s “Art Here and Now” program to the acquisition of his monumental 2013 painting *Shoot the Coin*. He was also co-curator and artist of our founding exhibition at Charles White Elementary School, which set a new direction for our many education and community programs. And we have been especially inspired by his Leimert Park-based Art + Practice program, in particular his work with foster youth,” said Michael Govan, LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director. He continued, “George is known worldwide as having made some of the most innovative and beloved films in history. He has also been devoted to collecting a wide variety of narrative visual arts, with his efforts culminating very soon in the construction of a new museum in Exposition Park. George’s epic new museum is one of the greatest cultural philanthropic gifts ever made in Los Angeles, and will benefit local communities as well as encourage a deeper understanding of narrative arts.”

Both Mark Bradford and George Lucas have a shared commitment to education. Bradford has invested in the Los Angeles community with Art + Practice, which brings museum-quality art exhibitions and youth services to Leimert Park through partnerships with museums and foster youth organizations. Lucas has called education the foundation of our democracy and a stepping-stone for youth to reach their full potential. He founded the George Lucas Educational Foundation to identify and share innovative, replicable, and evidence-based approaches to helping K–12 students learn better. The foundation provides real-world information at the parent, teacher, and school level along with community connections to positively impact the course of learning and lifelong achievement.

“I’m honored to co-host this year’s seventh annual Art+Film Gala spotlighting the work of Mark Bradford and George Lucas,” said Gala Co-Chair Eva Chow. “We continue to be grateful to Gucci for their partnership and collaboration as the presenting sponsor, and look forward to supporting another year of art and film at LACMA.”

Proceeds from the annual Art+Film Gala go toward underwriting LACMA’s initiative to make film more central to the museum’s curatorial programming, while also funding LACMA’s broader mission. This includes exhibitions, acquisitions, and educational programming, in addition to screenings that explore the intersection of art and film.

2017 ART+FILM HONOREES

About Mark Bradford

Mark Bradford was born in 1961 in Los Angeles, California, where he lives and works. In 1997 Bradford graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts from the California Institute of the Arts in Valencia, California. Bradford is currently representing the United States at La Biennale di Venezia 2017 with a major solo show in the U.S. Pavilion. *Mark Bradford: Tomorrow Is Another Day* is on view from May 13–November 26, 2017 in Venice, Italy. In November 2017, Bradford will present *Pickett's Charge*, a monumental commissioned cyclorama of paintings at the Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, D.C.

In 2015, Bradford was presented with the U.S. Department of State Medal of Arts. In 2013, he was elected as a National Academician by the National Academy Museum and School of Fine Arts in New York. Bradford is also a recipient of the David C. Driskell Prize (2016); the MacArthur Fellowship (2009); the Wexner

Center Residency Award (2009); and the Bucksbaum Award, granted by The Whitney Museum of American Art (2006).

Bradford has shown extensively in international and national exhibitions. Recent solo shows include *Mark Bradford: Receive Calls on Your Cell Phone From Jail*, Contemporary Art Museum, St. Louis, MO (2016); *Tears of a Tree*, The Rockbund Art Museum, Shanghai, China (2015); *Scorched Earth*, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA (2015); *Mark Bradford: Sea Monsters*, The Rose Art Museum, Waltham, MA (2014). Select public collections include The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; MCA Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; The Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; and Hammer Museum, Los Angeles.

About George Lucas

Filmmaker George Lucas was born in 1944 in Modesto, California. Lucas's devotion to timeless storytelling and cutting-edge innovation has resulted in some of the most successful and beloved films of all time, including the *Star Wars Saga* and *Indiana Jones*, while also pioneering new digital standards for sophistication in special effects and sound, and inspiring generations of young people to follow their imagination and dreams.

Taking a philanthropic leadership role in applying his technical and storytelling expertise to the classroom, Lucas founded the George Lucas Educational Foundation (Edutopia.org) in 1991 to highlight proven strategies, tools, and resources for creating lifelong learners. Lucas also serves on the board of The Film Foundation and the USC School of Cinematic Arts Board of Councilors.

Some of Lucas's accolades include the National Medal of Technology, the nation's highest award for technological achievement; the National Medal of Arts, the highest award presented to artists and patrons of the arts by the United States Government; the prestigious NAACP Vanguard Award; and the James Smithson Bicentennial Medal.

In 2017, the Los Angeles City Council approved plans to build the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art, which will include galleries, theaters, a library, classrooms, green space, and a café and restaurant. The institution, scheduled to open in 2021 in Exposition Park, will be a one-of-a-kind gathering place to experience art and

exhibitions dedicated to the power of visual storytelling across a variety of media, including paintings, illustrations, animation, digital art, comic art, photography, and more. The Lucas family will fully fund the museum's construction, collection, and operating endowment with no cost to taxpayers to build the museum.

For more information about the 2017 Art+Film Gala tickets and table sales, contact artandfilm@lacma.org or 323 857-4770.

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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