

**LACMA's Fifth Art+Film Gala Honors James Turrell and Alejandro G. Iñárritu and Raises Over \$4 Million****Leonardo DiCaprio and Eva Chow Co-chaired the Evening Attended by More than 600 Prominent Guests on Saturday, November 7, 2015****Presented by Gucci****ART+FILM**

(Los Angeles, November 8, 2015)— The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) hosted its fifth annual Art+Film Gala on Saturday, November 7, 2015, honoring artist James Turrell and Academy Award–winning director Alejandro G. Iñárritu. Co-chaired by LACMA trustee Eva Chow and actor Leonardo DiCaprio, the evening brought together more than 600 distinguished guests from the art, film, fashion, and entertainment industries, among others. The evening raised more than \$4 million, with proceeds supporting LACMA's film initiatives and future exhibitions, acquisitions, and programming. The 2015 Art+Film Gala was made possible through the generous support of Gucci.

Eva Chow, co-chair of the Art+Film Gala, said, "We are so pleased to dedicate this evening to James Turrell and Alejandro G. Iñárritu, whose visionary works have sparked our imaginations and broadened our perspectives. Tonight has been very special, with various creative communities coming out to support LACMA. We are especially honored to have Gucci's ongoing support as presenting sponsor of this event."

"This was the fifth year in a row that the Art+Film Gala has been helmed by Eva Chow and Leonardo DiCaprio, our tireless co-chairs," said Michael Govan, LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director. "Their commitment to this event, coupled with the outpouring of support from the art, film, music, and fashion industries, has enabled us to establish film as a major priority at LACMA. Both James Turrell and Alejandro G. Iñárritu inspire us and challenge us to expand our minds. I was honored to celebrate them tonight."

The Art+Film Gala began at Chris Burden's *Urban Light* on Wilshire Boulevard, with red-carpet arrivals of art world and entertainment luminaries, fashion icons, and renowned artists. Guests then moved to a cocktail reception in LACMA's BP Grand Entrance. After cocktails, guests proceeded to the Art+Film pavilion, overlooking Michael Heizer's *Levitated Mass*, where they were greeted by Kaki King performing an excerpt from her groundbreaking multimedia show *The Neck Is a Bridge to the Body*. Guests were seated for a special dinner prepared by Patina's Joachim Splichal. Champagne for the evening was generously provided by Laurent-Perrier, and specialty tequila cocktails were provided by Casamigos Tequila.

Michael Govan and Eva Chow welcomed the crowd, and further into the evening, T Bone Burnett presented the tribute to James Turrell. The presentation was accompanied by a short film by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Jessica Yu, which was made possible with support from Broad Green Pictures. Leonardo DiCaprio presented the tribute to Alejandro G. Iñárritu followed by a special film produced by 20th Century Fox.

During the evening, Michael Govan announced a major gift of nine Russian avant-garde film posters from the 1920s from film producer and avid collector Riza Aziz. The gift launches an effort led by Aziz and collector and poster expert Ralph DeLuca to build high-level support for LACMA's interdepartmental graphic design initiative, for which DeLuca has been a longtime advisor. Included among the remarkable and extremely rare posters in this gift are seven examples by Vladimir and Georgii Stenberg, leading Constructivist artists universally considered innovators in the design of avant-garde film posters; an iconic *Battleship Potemkin* poster by Anton Lavinsky, one of the best-known designs of the period, which has inspired a number of contemporary designers; and works by Alexander Naumov and Yakov Ruklevsky. The gift comes on the heels of Aziz's support for the 2014 LACMA exhibition *Haunted Screens: German Cinema in the 1920s*, which Aziz cosponsored with Leonardo DiCaprio, and to which Aziz also lent rare posters.

"This gift connects LACMA's Art+Film initiative to an effort across departments to build a great collection of graphic design. Riza Aziz has been a dedicated supporter of Art+Film at LACMA, and Ralph DeLuca has been instrumental in building support for transformative acquisitions like this one," said Michael Govan.

Sam Smith, originally scheduled to perform at the event, fell ill and regretfully was unable to perform as he was required to go on vocal rest. In his absence, Joe Walsh, who was a guest at the gala, and T Bone Burnett gave an impromptu performance at very short

notice and with no rehearsal—much to the enthusiasm and delight of the audience—and concluded the evening's festivities performing on piano and guitars.

Artists who attended the 2015 Art+Film Gala include honoree James Turrell, 2011 Art+Film honoree John Baldessari, 2014 Art+Film honoree Barbara Kruger, Doug Aitken, Meg Cranston, Thomas Demand, Sam Durant and Ana Prvacki, Urs Fischer, Piero Golia, Mark Grotjahn and Jennifer Guidi, Thomas Houseago, Alex Israel, Nicole Miller, Catherine Opie, Fernando Romero and Soumaya Slim, Nancy Rubins, Diana Thater and T. Kelly Mason, and Jordan Wolfson.

The entertainment and fashion worlds were represented by Alejandro G. Iñárritu, Leonardo DiCaprio, Gucci President and CEO Marco Bizzarri, Gucci Creative Director Alessandro Michele, Kaki King, Naomi Campbell, Si-won Choi, Asia Chow, China Chow, Gia Coppola, Jacqui Getty, Karl Glusman, Luca Guadagnino, Rosie Huntington-Whiteley, Dakota Johnson, Diane Kruger and Joshua Jackson, Ji-hoon Kim, So-young Ko, Byung-hyun Lee, Jung-hyun Lee, Jared Leto, Inez van Lamsweerde and Vinoodh Matadin, Mia Maestro, Brit Marling and Zal Batmanglij, Hari Nef, Gwyneth Paltrow, François-Henri and Salma Hayek Pinault, PSY, Ivan Reitman, Jason Reitman, Saoirse Ronan, Julian Sands, Ricky Saiz and Chloë Sevigny, Tara Subkoff, Aaron and Sam Taylor-Johnson, Usher, and Reese Witherspoon. Other notable guests include Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, Mayor Eric Garcetti, and Consul General of Mexico Carlos M. Sada.

Wearing Gucci to the event were Eva Chow, Alejandro G. Iñárritu, Michael Govan and Katherine Ross, Asia Chow, Gia Coppola, Jacqui Getty, Karl Glusman, Salma Hayek Pinault, Rosie Huntington-Whiteley, Joshua Jackson, Dakota Johnson, Kaki King, So-young Ko, Jared Leto, Brit Marling, Mia Maestro, Hari Nef, Gwyneth Paltrow, Saoirse Ronan, Ricky Saiz and Chloë Sevigny, and Aaron and Sam Taylor-Johnson.

### **About James Turrell**

“My work is about space and the light that inhabits it. It is about how you can confront that space and plumb it. It is about your seeing, like the wordless thought that comes from looking into a fire.” —James Turrell

James Turrell is an internationally acclaimed light and space artist whose work can be found in collections worldwide. Over more than four decades, he has created striking works—employing the sky as his studio, material, and canvas—that play with perception and the effect of light within a created space. His fascination with the phenomenon of light is related to his personal, inward search for mankind's place in the universe. Influenced by his Quaker upbringing, which he characterizes as having a “straightforward, strict

presentation of the sublime,” Turrell’s art prompts greater self-awareness through a similar discipline of silent contemplation, patience, and meditation.

Informed by his training in perceptual psychology and a childhood fascination with light, Turrell began his artistic career in Los Angeles in the early 1960s as one of the leaders of a new group of artists working with light and space. His first solo exhibition of his *Projection Pieces* took place at the Pasadena Art Museum, forming the basis of his later work. Over the past two decades, Turrell’s work has been recognized in exhibitions in major museums around the world, including the Guggenheim Museum, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA); and the Panza di Biumo Collection, Varese, Italy.

Whether harnessing the light at sunset or transforming the glow of a television set into a fluctuating portal, Turrell’s art places viewers in a realm of pure experience. His large-scale, often architectural works incorporate the complex interplay of sky, light, and atmosphere in motion across expanses of ocean, desert, and city. They include his *Skyspaces*, of which there are over 80 examples worldwide: chambers with an aperture in the ceiling that opens to the sky. The recipient of several prestigious awards such as the Guggenheim and MacArthur Fellowships, Turrell currently resides in Flagstaff, Arizona, in order to oversee the completion of his most important work that he began in 1974, a monumental land art project at Roden Crater. The artist has been transforming the extinct volcano in northern Arizona into a naked-eye celestial observatory.

In addition to hosting Turrell’s major retrospective in 2013–14, LACMA also currently has on view *Breathing Light*, a large Ganzfeld installation by the artist, purchased with funds provided by Kayne Griffin Corcoran and the Kayne Foundation. In the spring of this year, through a gift from Hyundai Motor Company as part of The Hyundai Project: Art + Technology at LACMA, the museum acquired Turrell’s Perceptual Cell work *Light Reignfall* in honor of LACMA’s 50th anniversary.

For more information, visit [jamesturrell.com](http://jamesturrell.com).

### **About Alejandro G. Iñárritu**

Academy Award–winning director, writer, and producer Alejandro G. Iñárritu is one of the most acclaimed and well-regarded filmmakers working today.

Iñárritu made his feature directorial debut with *Amores Perros*, a drama that explored Mexican society told through the perspective of three intertwining stories connected by a

car accident in Mexico City. The film was nominated for Best Foreign Language Film at the 2001 Academy Awards.

His next film, *21 Grams*, was nominated for two Academy Awards for Lead Actress Naomi Watts and Supporting Actor Benicio del Toro and released by Focus Features. His third film, *Babel*, released by Paramount Pictures, premiered at Cannes, where Iñárritu won Best Director. That same year, *Babel* subsequently went on to win the Golden Globe Award for Best Picture Drama and was nominated for seven Academy Awards, including two for Iñárritu for Best Picture and Best Director. With his two nominations, Iñárritu became the first Mexican filmmaker to ever be nominated for either director or producer in the history of the Academy Awards. Iñárritu's fourth film, *Biutiful*, was his first Spanish-language film since *Amores Perros*. He directed and produced the acclaimed drama, which he also cowrote with Armando Bo and Nicolás Giacobone. The Focus Features film was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film, and Javier Bardem was nominated for Best Actor for his moving lead performance.

Last year, Iñárritu won three Academy Awards for directing, cowriting, and coproducing Best Picture winner *Birdman: Or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)*. The acclaimed dark comedy also won Best Cinematography and was nominated for an additional five Academy Awards. Iñárritu won a DGA Award and a PGA Award for the Fox Searchlight film, which starred Oscar nominees Michael Keaton, Emma Stone, and Edward Norton.

Iñárritu is currently in post-production on *The Revenant*, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Hardy, which he cowrote with Mark L. Smith. The film follows trapper Hugh Glass, who, driven by his love for his son, sets out on a quest for revenge against the harrowing backdrop of the 19th-century American frontier. Iñárritu is also a producer on the epic adventure film, which is inspired by true events and will be released at the end of the year by 20th Century Fox.

Iñárritu first began his career as a radio host and radio director at Mexican rock radio station WFM, which became the number one radio station in Mexico during his time. After working in radio, Iñárritu spent three years studying theater in Mexico City with Ludwik Margules, and then began writing, producing, and directing short films and commercials under his Z Films company in Mexico.

For the fifth-annual Art+Film Gala, LACMA provided live social media coverage on Instagram [[@lacma](#)] and Snapchat [[lacma\\_museum](#)] during the red carpet and cocktail hour. #artandfilm

Getty Images photos and video are available at <http://www.epklink.com/LACMA2015Art-FilmGala>, or [www.gettyimages.com](http://www.gettyimages.com).

Billy Farrell Agency images are available at <http://www.bfanyc.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 over 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 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](http://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 creativity, innovation and Italian craftsmanship.

Gucci is part of the Kering Group, a world leader in apparel and accessories that owns a portfolio of powerful luxury and sport and lifestyle brands.

For further information about Gucci, visit [www.gucci.com](http://www.gucci.com).

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