

# LACMA FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## MICHAEL HEIZER'S LEVITATED MASS TO OPEN AT LACMA JUNE 24.

### PUBLIC DEDICATION CEREMONY WILL MARK HISTORIC OCCASION

(Los Angeles, May 22, 2012)—The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) announces that artist Michael Heizer's monumental sculpture *Levitated Mass* will open to the public on Sunday, June 24. Originally conceived by the artist in 1969, *Levitated Mass* is a 456-foot-long concrete slot, over which sits a 340-ton granite boulder. As visitors walk through the slot, the pathway descends to fifteen feet in depth, running underneath the boulder before ascending back up. A formal dedication ceremony, open to the public, will take place at 11 am, inaugurating the artwork's official debut.

"This is a historic occasion, one many years in the making," said LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director Michael Govan. "Thousands of families witnessed the transport of the 340-ton megalith to LACMA this spring, and now Michael Heizer has realized his artwork on the museum's campus, where it will stand for generations to come. I am grateful to the many generous donors who made this incredible endeavor possible."

*Levitated Mass* was made possible by private gifts to *Transformation: The LACMA Campaign* from Jane and Terry Semel, Bobby Kotick, Carole Bayer Sager and Bob Daly, Beth and Joshua Friedman, Steve Tisch Family Foundation, Elaine Wynn, Linda, Bobby, and Brian Daly, Hanjin Shipping Co., Ltd., Richard Merkin, MD, and the Mohn Family Foundation. LACMA has dedicated this acquisition to the memory of Nancy Daly, former chair of LACMA's board of trustees.

"Nancy Daly was a passionate advocate for the arts and for children in Los Angeles," said Terry Semel, co-chair of LACMA's board of trustees.

"*Levitated Mass* is a fitting tribute to her leadership and to her philanthropic vision. I know that so many people – children especially – will find inspiration and wonder in this monumental work of art."

Transport of the boulder from a quarry in Jurupa Valley to LACMA – one of the largest megalithic stones to be moved since ancient times – made international headlines in March of this year. The 11-night journey through five counties and twenty-two cities drew thousands of enthusiastic onlookers day and night from all over Southern California. Transport was made possible by Hanjin Shipping Co., Ltd.

As a show of thanks to the many communities which saw and hosted this historic transport, the museum is offering a free admission to residents of select zip codes during the week of June 24 to July 1. Visitors simply need to show proof of residence in one of these zip codes at the LACMA ticket office to gain free admission. The full list of zip codes is available at [lacma.org/levitatedmass](http://lacma.org/levitatedmass).

#### **Key Statistics**

Weight	340 tons
Height	21 1/2 feet
Width	21 1/2 feet
Length of slot	456 feet
Depth of slot (at lowest point)	15 feet
Interior width of slot	15 feet
Exterior width of slot	19 feet


#### **MICHAEL HEIZER BIO**

Michael Heizer was born in Berkeley, California, in 1944. He briefly attended the San Francisco Art Institute and moved to New York City in 1966, where he produced large-scale paintings. In late 1968-69, Heizer chose to operate between his studios in New York and a ranch he eventually built in Nevada. Here, he began to produce large-scale sculptures such as *Nine Nevada Depressions* and *Displaced/Replaced Mass*, as well as large earth drawings and paintings on dry lakes in California and Nevada. To interpret these immense sculptures in a gallery setting, Heizer developed his unique use of large-scale still photography in the form of collages and static projections. Several shows with oversize rock-in-floor depressions were produced in Los Angeles and New York with Ace Gallery. His 1969 artwork *Double Negative* (now owned by the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles) inspired generations of artists. Heizer is currently completing his largest project, *City*, begun in 1972. Permanent installations of Heizer's sculpture can be found throughout the United States, including Seattle, Washington; Oakland, California; the Menil

Collection and Rice University in Houston, Texas; the MIT campus in Boston, Massachusetts and the corner of 56th and Madison Avenue in New York City. Major exhibitions of his work have been presented at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Fondazione Prada, Milan, Italy, and at the Rijksmuseum Kröller-Müller, Otterlo, Holland.

## LEVITATED MASS CREDIT

Michael Heizer, *Levitated Mass*, conceived 1968, realized 2011, and made possible by gifts to *Transformation: The LACMA Campaign* from Jane and Terry Semel, Bobby Kotick, Carole Bayer Sager and Bob Daly, Beth and Joshua Friedman, Steve Tisch Family Foundation, Elaine Wynn, Linda, Bobby, and Brian Daly, Hanjin Shipping Co., Ltd., Richard Merkin, MD, and the Mohn Family Foundation and has been dedicated by LACMA to the memory of Nancy Daly.

Transportation made possible by  HANJIN SHIPPING

### About LACMA

Since its inception in 1965, LACMA has been devoted to collecting works of art that span both history and geography and represent Los Angeles's uniquely diverse population. Today, the museum features particularly strong collections of Asian, Latin American, European, and American art, as well as a contemporary museum on its campus. With this expanded space for contemporary art, innovative collaborations with artists, and an ongoing Transformation project, LACMA is creating a truly modern lens through which to view its rich encyclopedic collection.

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

**Hours:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: noon-8 pm; Friday: noon-9 pm; Saturday, Sunday: 11 am-8 pm; closed Wednesday

**General Admission:** Adults: \$15; students 18+ with ID and senior citizens 62+: \$10

**Free General Admission:** Members; children 17 and under; after 5 pm weekdays for L.A. County residents; second Tuesday of every month; Target Free Holiday Mondays

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

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