



## JAMES TURRELL: A RETROSPECTIVE

### CURATOR BIOS

#### LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director: Michael Govan

Michael Govan joined the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) as Chief Executive Officer and Wallis Annenberg Director in 2006. In this role, he oversees all activities of the museum, including art programming and the *Transformation* campaign, an ambitious, multi-faceted building project that is expanding, upgrading, and unifying the museum's eight-building, twenty-acre campus, most recently including the addition of the Lynda and Stewart Resnick Exhibition Pavilion. Since Mr. Govan's arrival at LACMA, he has pursued his vision of contemporary artists interacting with the museum's historic collections, as evidenced by John Baldessari's installation of the exhibition *Magritte and Contemporary Art*; Jorge Pardo's innovative gallery design for the museum's permanent collection of ancient Latin American art; and Franz West's installation design for an exhibition of the museum's recently acquired collection of art of the Pacific Islands.

As part of LACMA's *Transformation*, Mr. Govan has additionally orchestrated the commission and installation of the artist projects that dot the museum's campus, beginning with Chris Burden's *Urban Light* (2008), Barbara Kruger's *Untitled (Shafted)* (2008), Robert Irwin's evolving palm garden and most recently Michael Heizer's *Levitated Mass* (2012). Under Mr. Govan's leadership, the museum acquired by donation or purchase more than 10,000 works for the permanent collection, including one of the most significant private collections of the art of the Pacific Islands assembled in the twentieth century; the Marjorie and Leonard Vernon Collection of photography—3,500 prints that form one of the finest histories of photography from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries; a collection of more than 500 examples of fashionable European dress and accessories dating from 1700 to 1915; and a number of significant individual gifts. LACMA was also the recipient of the Lazarof Collection, a group of 130 works notable for its holdings of objects by leading figures of modern art.

From 1994 to 2006, Mr. Govan was President and Director of Dia Art Foundation based in New York City, where he spearheaded the creation of the critically acclaimed, 300,000-square-foot Dia: Beacon, a museum in New York's Hudson Valley that houses Dia's renowned collection of art from the 1960s to the present. Dia's collection itself nearly doubled in size during Mr. Govan's tenure.

Known for his curatorial work as well as for his museum leadership, Mr. Govan co-curated the acclaimed touring exhibition *Dan Flavin: A Retrospective*, organized by Dia in association with the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. The exhibition concluded its international tour at LACMA, where it was on view in summer 2007.

Prior to Dia Art Foundation, Mr. Govan served for six years as Deputy Director of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. In that capacity, his work extended to Guggenheim branches in New York, Venice, and Bilbao. While at the Guggenheim, he organized numerous major exhibitions and produced related scholarly publications, including the multi-disciplinary *The Great Utopia: The Russian and Soviet Avant-Garde, 1915-1932*, and oversaw the reinstallation of the museum's collection galleries.

Michael Govan was born in 1963 and grew up in Washington, D.C. He holds a B.A. in Art History from Williams College, in Williamstown, Massachusetts, where he served as Acting Curator of the Williams College Museum of Art. Before continuing his studies at the University of San Diego, Mr. Govan studied Renaissance art in Italy.

## **Christine Y. Kim**

Christine Y. Kim is co-curator of *James Turrell: A Retrospective* (May 26, 2013–April 6, 2014) with LACMA Director & CEO Michael Govan. She has been Associate Curator of Contemporary Art at LACMA since 2009. Kim co-organized *Human Nature: Contemporary Art from the Collection* with Terri and Michael Smooke Curator & Department Head Franklin Sirmans in 2011, and organized *Teresa Margolles*, an outdoor sculpture project in collaboration with the Los Angeles Nomadic Division (LAND) a non-profit organization for public art which she co-founded in 2009. Prior to her post at LACMA, Kim was Associate Curator at The Studio Museum in Harlem in New York, where she worked from 2000–2008, and organized numerous solo and group exhibitions such as *Flow* (2008), *Philosophy of Time* *Travel* (2007), *Meschac Gaba: Tresses* (2005), and *Black Belt* (2003), and co-organized survey exhibitions *Frequency* (2005) and *Freestyle* (2001).

Kim received a B.A. with a dual degree in Art History and French and a minor in Asian Studies from Connecticut College in 1993 and an interdisciplinary M.A. in Critical Theory and American Studies from New York University in 1998. In 2009 Kim won the New Leadership Award from ArtTable. Individual grants from the Japan Foundation (2011), Cultural Services of the French Embassy (2007), The American Center Foundation (2002), and the Turkish Cultural Institute (1999) represent some of the foundations that have supported Kim's curatorial work over the years.