

Work by Sam Durant Currently on View at Nerano Restaurant in Beverly Hills Will Come to LACMA

(Los Angeles, June 27, 2018)—The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) announced today that a work by L.A.-based artist Sam Durant, commissioned for and currently on display at Nerano restaurant in Beverly Hills by owners Andy and Carlo Brandon-Gordon, will enter LACMA's collection as a promised gift.

Durant's *Empathy for Everyone*, 2017, is a recent work from the artist's ongoing "electric sign" series. Like many of Durant's works, the electric signs engage with important periods and events in history by appropriating historical images or forms and resituating them in new contexts that allow and inspire critical reevaluation. In the case of the light box signs, the vinyl text applied on the signs is always appropriated from historical photographs which contain images of handmade signs. *Empathy for Everyone* relates to a photograph of the January 21, 2017 Women's March on Washington, and is based on a sign visible in one of the many news photographs of that day.

"Carlo and I are pleased to support local artists and LACMA through this initiative to commission Los Angeles artists for our restaurant, Nerano," states Andy Brandon-Gordon. "We are honored that Sam Durant is our very first commission, which will also be a promised gift to LACMA. Our love of food and wine, coupled with our passion for art, makes this a perfect fusion for the community to enjoy. We hope that all who come to Nerano will enjoy not only Sam Durant's beautiful piece but the work of the other artists that grace our restaurant, courtesy of the Jane and Marc Nathanson family collection."

"We are so grateful to Andy and Carlo Brandon-Gordon for their longstanding generosity," said Michael Govan, LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director. "Andy has been on the museum's board since 2005, serving as co-chair from 2007 to 2015. During this time, Chris Burden's *Urban Light* (2008) joined our campus as a gift of the Brandon-Gordon Family Foundation to *Transformation: The LACMA Campaign*. The promised gift of this Sam Durant work reflects Andy and Carlo's incredible commitment to LACMA and to the creative community of Los Angeles."

Empathy for Everyone joins several other works by Sam Durant in LACMA's permanent collection, including *Proposal for White and Indian Dead Monument Transpositions, Washington, D.C.*, 2005, acquired through the museum's 2013

Collectors Committee; the electric sign *Like, man, I'm tired (of waiting)*, 2002, a promised gift of Susan Hancock in honor of the museum's 50th anniversary; and *Proposal for America*, 2010, a gift of the artist in honor of the museum's 50th anniversary.

About Sam Durant

Sam Durant has been the subject of one-person exhibitions at the Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum, St. Louis (2015); Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles (2014); Museo d'arte contemporanea, Rome (2013); the Massachusetts College of Art, Boston (2006); the Kunstverein Düsseldorf (2003); the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (2003); the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, CT (2002); and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (2002). Important group exhibitions include *The Natural Order of Things* at Museo Jumex, Mexico City (2016); *America is Hard to See* at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2015); *See You In The Hague* at Stroom den Haag, The Hague (2013); and *Out of Place: Contemporary Art and the Architectural Uncanny* at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (2002). He has participated in the 2017 Yokohama Triennial, Japan; dOCUMENTA (13), Kassel; the 2004 Whitney Museum Biennial, New York; and the 2002 Venice Biennale, Italy. Durant has been awarded numerous public commissions such as the Waterloo Billboard Commission, Hayward Gallery (2017); *The Meeting House* at Old Manse in Concord, MA (2016); and *Labyrinth*, Mural Arts Program, Philadelphia (2015). Durant lives and works in Los Angeles.

About Nerano

Nerano is the fourth restaurant from the Toscana Restaurant Group and is the vision of owners Andy Brandon-Gordon and Carlo Brandon-Gordon's trips to the Amalfi Coast where they became inspired by the temperate climate, the pure simplicity of the coastal cuisine, and the inviting Italian culture. In combining their individual talents with a virtuoso team of culinary and creative professionals, they are fulfilling their vision of a stunning contemporary space matched with exquisite dishes and welcoming service they discovered in the village of Nerano. Executive chef Michele Lisi's menu is deftly created with a light touch, using only the finest California and imported Italian ingredients. The upstairs BG Lounge, featuring exquisitely crafted cocktails, is beautifully appointed and the dramatic and theatrical room is an instant classic, reminiscent of Bemelmans Bar at New York's Carlyle Hotel or Bar Hemingway in Paris. Nerano and BG Lounge opened in November with much fanfare from *The Hollywood Reporter*, *Zagat*, *Angeleno*, *Eater*, *Thrillist* and *Urban Daddy*.

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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, mirroring Los Angeles's rich cultural heritage and uniquely diverse population. Today LACMA is the largest art museum in the western United States, with a collection of over 135,000 objects that illuminate 6,000 years of art history from new and unexpected points of view. A museum of international stature as well as a vital cultural center for Southern California, LACMA shares its vast collection with the Greater Los Angeles County and beyond through exhibitions, public programs, and research facilities that attract over 1.5 million visitors annually, in addition to serving millions more through community partnerships, school outreach programs, and creative digital initiatives. LACMA's main campus is located halfway between the ocean and downtown, adjacent to the La Brea Tar Pits and Museum and the future home of the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures. Dedicated to serving all of Los Angeles, LACMA collaborates with a range of curators, educators, and artists on exhibitions and programs at various sites throughout the County.

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