

LACMA Announces 2019 Art+Film Gala Honoring Betye Saar and Alfonso Cuarón

The Ninth Annual Event, Held on Saturday, November 2, 2019, Is Co-Chaired by Eva Chow and Leonardo DiCaprio

Presented by Gucci



(Los Angeles, July 10, 2019) The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) announces the date and honorees of its 2019 Art+Film Gala. On Saturday, November 2, LACMA will honor artist Betye Saar and filmmaker Alfonso Cuarón. LACMA trustee Eva Chow and actor Leonardo DiCaprio have championed the museum's film initiatives since 2011, and they continue their efforts as the 2019 Art+Film Gala Co-Chairs. Gucci continues its invaluable partnership with the museum as the presenting sponsor of the annual event. For the second year, additional support for the gala is provided by Audi.

"Betye Saar is one of the most significant artists working today, and one who boldly addresses issues of race, gender, and spirituality," said LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director Michael Govan. "Born in Los Angeles and having sustained a career over seven decades here, Saar has only begun to receive the international acclaim her work deserves. LACMA has exhibited her work since 1972. This fall, we are thrilled to present *Betye Saar: Call and Response*, an exhibition that will reveal the artist's

sketchbooks, an important part of her creative process that has never before been shown publicly, and their relation to her finished works.” He continued, “We are also thrilled to honor acclaimed filmmaker Alfonso Cuarón. Cuarón tells beautiful and stirring stories of humanity and how we relate to one another, from his early films *The Little Princess* and *Tu Mamá También* to his recent work including *Gravity* and last year’s *Roma*, which was as personal as it was universal. Earlier this year LACMA exhibited stills from *Roma* that not only highlighted Cuarón’s incredible skill in pictorial composition, but also connected deeply and personally to so many museum visitors.”

“We are very excited to celebrate the life’s work of two extraordinary forces in the visual arts: Betye Saar and Alfonso Cuarón,” said Gala Co-Chair Eva Chow. “Together with the generous support of our partner Gucci, we are able to shine a light on their contributions in their respective fields that inspire future generations of artists and filmmakers.”

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 that explore the intersection of art and film.

Govan added, “This gala is a moment to honor the achievements of the moving image and to celebrate the strengthened dialogue between art and film in Los Angeles. This creative exchange will continue to grow stronger in the coming years with the opening of the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures and LACMA’s theater in its new building for the permanent collection. These exciting new cultural developments will ensure that the legacy of cinema will continue to thrive in Los Angeles.”

LACMA Productions is an award-winning extension of the museum’s film initiative. Over the last eight years, along with the establishment of the Art+Film initiative, LACMA has dedicated resources to producing short documentary films on artists including John Baldessari, Ed Ruscha, David Hockney, Barbara Kruger, James Turrell, Robert Irwin, Mark Bradford, and Catherine Opie. By producing as well as commissioning work from emerging and mid-career filmmakers, the museum has created a series of short documentaries that have earned official selections at some of the leading international film

festivals including the Sundance Film Festival, SXSW, DOC NYC, Los Angeles Film Festival, Sheffield Doc/Fest, Full Frame, and AFI DOCS. Past filmmakers include Henry Joost and Ariel Schulman, Lance Accord, Doug Pray, Lucy Walker, Jessica Yu, Pippa Bianco, Lianne Skyler, Dime Davis, and Sini Anderson. For the 2019 Art+Film Gala, filmmaker Christine Turner has been commissioned to make a short film about Betye Saar.

2019 ART+FILM HONOREES

About Betye Saar

One of the most important artists of her generation, Betye Saar (b.1926) played a seminal role in the development of Assemblage art. Since the 1960s, her work has reflected on African American identity, spirituality, gender, and the connectedness between different cultures. Saar received her BA from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1949, with graduate studies at California State University at Long Beach, the University of Southern California, and California State University at Northridge. She has been awarded honorary doctorate degrees by Cornish College of the Arts; California College of Arts and Crafts; California Institute of the Arts; Massachusetts College of Art and Design; Otis College of Art & Design; and San Francisco Art Institute. Saar's work is included in the permanent collections of more than 80 museums, including—in addition to LACMA—The Museum of Modern Art, New York; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles. Forthcoming exhibitions include *Betye Saar: Call and Response*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles (September 22, 2019–April 5, 2020), traveling to The Morgan Library & Museum, New York, and Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas; and *Betye Saar: The Legends of Black Girl's Window*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, (October 21, 2019–January 4, 2020).

About Alfonso Cuarón

Alfonso Cuarón (b. 1961) is a four-time Academy Award winner who has written and directed a wide range of acclaimed films. Cuarón made his feature film directorial debut in 1991 with *Sólo Con Du Pareja (Live in the Time of Hysteria)* which was the biggest box office hit in Mexico in 1992. Cuarón soon after made his American feature film debut with

the critically acclaimed motion picture adaptation of the beloved children's book *A Little Princess* (1995), which was nominated for two Academy Awards for Best Cinematography and Art Direction. That was followed by *Great Expectations* (1998), a contemporary adaptation of Charles Dickens's classic novel. With his next feature, Cuarón returned to Mexico to direct a Spanish-speaking cast in the funny, provocative, and controversial road comedy *Y Tu Mamá También* (2003), for which he received an Academy Award nomination for Best Original Screenplay and BAFTA nominations for Best Foreign Film and Best Original Screenplay. That same year, Cuarón also directed *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* (2003), the third film in the most successful motion picture franchise of all time, based on the best-selling books by author J.K. Rowling. Cuarón's next project, *Children of Men*, was one of the most talked about films of 2006, earning two Academy Award nominations for Cuarón for Best Adapted Screenplay and Best Editing. Cuarón then won two Academy Awards for directing, producing, and editing *Gravity* (2013), which he also co-wrote with his son Jonás. In recent years, Cuarón executive produced the documentary *This Changes Everything* (2015), directed by Avi Lewis, which explores the impact of economic models on climate change; and produced *Desierto* (2016), written and directed by Jonás, which was released in 2016 by STX Entertainment. Most recently, Cuarón's *Roma* (2018) received two Academy Awards for directing and cinematography. The film also won the award for Best Foreign Language.

For more information about the 2019 Art+Film Gala tickets and table sales, contact artandfilm@lacma.org or 323 857-4770.

About LACMA

Located on the Pacific Rim, LACMA is the largest art museum in the western United States, with a collection of nearly 140,000 objects that illuminate 6,000 years of artistic expression across the globe. Committed to showcasing a multitude of art histories, LACMA exhibits and interprets works of art from new and unexpected points of view that are informed by the region's rich cultural heritage and diverse population. LACMA's spirit of experimentation is reflected in its work with artists, technologists, and thought leaders as well as in its regional, national, and global partnerships to share collections and programs, create pioneering initiatives, and engage new audiences.

Location: 5905 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA, 90036. lacma.org

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

Image captions:

Betye Saar 2019; courtesy of the Artist and Roberts Projects, Los Angeles; photo: David Sprague

Alfonso Cuarón: photo by Dan Winters

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About Gucci

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