

LACMA Announces 10 New Acquisitions During the 38th Collectors Committee Weekend



Image captions on page 6

(Los Angeles, CA—April 29, 2023) The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) announces 10 new acquisitions for its permanent collection during the museum’s 38th Collectors Committee fundraiser. Led since 2009 by LACMA trustee, Collectors Committee Chair, and Acquisitions Committee Co-Chair Ann Colgin, the event took place over two days and included art presentations by LACMA curators, private dinners in the homes of museum supporters, and a gala dinner and auction. This year, 154 members raised nearly \$3 million for art acquisitions. Bank of America returned as sponsor of this year's fundraiser, with additional support by Cartier for the event’s curatorial presentations.

Funds for artwork acquisitions were raised through Collectors Committee membership dues, with additional funds provided by Kelvin and Hana Davis; Rebecka and Arie Belldgrun; The Buddy Taub Foundation, Stephanie and Dennis Roach, Directors; and Rob Levine and Larry Ginsberg. A live auction of eight lots, conducted by LACMA trustee Viveca Paulin-Ferrell, added additional funds for acquisitions.

“I’m overjoyed that the Collectors Committee made these wonderful acquisitions for LACMA possible, and I thank the committee members for their profound generosity to the museum,” said Colgin. “I’m also grateful to the curators for their scholarship and insight on these works of art, and to all of the hosts, chefs, and vintners who made the Friday evening dinners so memorable.”

“The works LACMA acquired this weekend—and, notably, the first artwork commissioned by LACMA through the Collectors Committee—will expand and strengthen many different areas of the collection. Most are slated to be included in

the first installation of the new David Geffen Galleries,” added LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director Michael Govan.

Collectors Committee Weekend

Since 1986, Collectors Committee Weekend has been one of the museum’s most important fundraising events and continues to enable major acquisitions for every area of its encyclopedic collection. This year’s acquisitions bring the number of works acquired through the event to 266, with donations nearing \$52 million.

The weekend began with members attending one of five dinners in the homes of LACMA trustees and patrons on Friday, April 26, prepared in person by renowned chefs and paired with wines from notable vintners.

Friday night’s dinners were prepared by Josiah Citrin (Mélisse, Citrin, Charcoal Restaurants); Christopher Kostow (The Restaurant at Meadowood, The Charter Oak, Loveski); Walter Manzke (République); Kyle Connaughton (SingleThread Farms); and Mario Carbone (Carbone).

With pairings by Amanda Harlan and Francois Vignaud (Harlan Estate); Estelle Ngo (Krug Champagne); Mary Margaret McCamic (Screaming Eagle); Kyo Dominick (Bonneau du Martray); Christopher and Ariel Jackson (Vérité Winery); Bertha González-Nieves (Casa Dragones Tequila); Ann Colgin and Joe Wender (Colgin Cellars); and Maya Dalla Valle (Dalla Valle Vineyards).

On the morning of Saturday, April 27, members attended a viewing of the proposed artworks at LACMA followed by curator presentations. During a break after the presentations and before the evening voting, Manjunath Kamath’s sculpture *Vikatonarva* (2024) was acquired through a generous gift from LACMA trustee Kelvin Davis and his wife Hana Davis.

At the Collectors Committee gala that evening, emceed by Ann Colgin and LACMA trustee Ryan Seacrest, committee members voted to select which artworks to acquire. During the voting, LACMA trustee Rebecka Belldegrun and her husband Arie Belldegrun made a gift to acquire a suite of preparatory drawings by Judy Baca for her mural *Hitting the Wall: Women in the Marathon* (1984).

Following the voting, a group of patrons contributed additional funds to acquire an artwork by artist Tavares Strachan, who generously donated a neon sculpture to the Collectors Committee auction. Strachan will create another edition of the sculpture, titled *We Are In This Together* (2018), for LACMA’s collection.

Guests at the gala enjoyed a special dinner prepared by chef Timothy Hollingsworth, Otium LA, and Patina Catering. Beverages were provided by FIJI Water, POM Wonderful, and Wally’s.

For every Collectors Committee, an artist whose work is in LACMA's collection creates an edition for committee members who donate at the highest levels. This year, artist Analia Saban created a limited-edition monoprint titled *Computer Fan*.

Acquired Artworks

The 2024 Collectors Committee made possible the following acquisitions:

- Manjunath Kamath's *Vikatonarva* (2024) is a 12-foot-tall terracotta sculpture that assembles iconography from cultures across time and place. Characters from Indian epic poetry come together with motifs from ancient Greece and China. With a gesture from here, a curve from there—like a fresco on a weathered wall—Kamath invites viewers to fill in history's cracks. For Kamath, history is a massive pile of debris that collects at the feet of the imagination. *Vikatonarva* embodies the philosophy behind LACMA's encyclopedic program where infinite connections can be discovered among world cultures. Kamath lives and works in New Delhi, India, and *Vikatonarva* is the first of his works to enter a public collection in the western United States. This acquisition expands LACMA's limited holdings of contemporary Indian art.

Gift of Kelvin and Hana Davis through the 2024 Collectors Committee

- One of America's leading visual artists and LACMA's 2023 Art+Film Honoree, L.A.-based Chicana muralist Judy Baca has been creating public art for over five decades. Found on the 4th Street off-ramp of the Harbor Freeway, Baca's *Hitting the Wall: Women in the Marathon* (c. 1984) mural commemorates the first-ever Olympic women's marathon, which was held at the 1984 summer games in L.A. This set of four rare preliminary drawings of *Hitting the Wall* demonstrates Baca's draftsmanship and provides original documentation of one of the city's most iconic public works of art. The first group of works by Baca to enter the museum's collection, these drawings join a handful of works commemorating not only the Olympics but also artistic interventions in the fight for equity.

Gift of Drs. Rebecka and Arie Belldegrun through the 2024 Collectors Committee

- Ceramics made in Iznik, in western Turkey, are one of the most renowned and influential arts of the Ottoman period. In the late 15th century, in emulation of the imported Chinese blue-and-white porcelain, which, along with gold and silver plate, served as the tableware of the Ottoman Sultan, Iznik potters began producing blue-and-white wares of a quality unequalled in Islamic ceramics. Belonging to an early phase in the development of Iznik ceramics in

the first decades of the 16th century, the **dish** acquired by the Art of the Middle East department represents a rare survival and a beautiful example of cross-cultural influence and interchange.

Gift of the 2024 Collectors Committee

- ***Pax with the Assumption and Coronation of the Virgin*** (c. 1575–78) is one of Mexico's most complex and culturally important objects from the 16th century. It combines precious metals, shimmering feathers, wood carvings, and rock crystal. Long used by local artists and invested with sacred meaning, these materials were redeployed after the conquest to create Christian objects, demonstrating an important level of Indigenous agency and resilience under Spanish rule. Superbly crafted, this rare surviving early colonial object embodies a new visual language between Europe and the Americas and bears enormous cultural and artistic significance.

Gift of the 2024 Collectors Committee

- ***Nest*** (1971) is a commanding painting by the legendary Suzanne Jackson who is known not only for her paintings and installations but also the groundbreaking Gallery 32 (1968–70), which was one of the few spaces where emerging Black artists could exhibit in Los Angeles. The subject is a stocky life-size toddler painted with a combination of acrylic and water to achieve a delicate watercolor effect, a technique that is emblematic of her early work. This is LACMA's first painting by this important Black artist and helps to enrich the museum's collection of post-war L.A. art, expanding familiar narratives and questioning reductive art histories. Jackson will be the subject of a major retrospective next year and is receiving keen critical attention for her works in the current Whitney Biennial.

Gift of the 2024 Collectors Committee with additional funds provided by The Buddy Taub Foundation, Stephanie and Dennis Roach, Directors

- Saeki Shunkō's circa 1937 life-size painting, ***Photo Studio (Shajō) aka Daughter (Musume)***, reveals the fusion of tradition and modernity in Japanese art, fashion, and culture during the early 20th century. Referencing traditional Japanese paintings of beautiful women (*bijinga*), Shunkō portrays a young woman wearing a kimono patterned with fiddlehead ferns, an edible mountain vegetable foraged in the wild during early spring, and a chapter in the 11th-century novel *The Tale of Genji*. The model's makeup and "stacked perm" hairstyle distinguish her as a trendsetting urban middle-class working "modern girl" (*moga*), at ease in both Japanese and Western fashion modes.

Gift of the 2024 Collectors Committee

- *A Parisian Street Scene: Boulevard des Capucines* (c. late 1897–early 1898) epitomizes the glittering work of Jean Béraud. With characteristic lightheartedness and exquisite draftsmanship, the painting features multiple vignettes of a seemingly typical day in the fashionable French capital in the late 1890s. *A Parisian Street Scene* is a natural nodal point that connects many areas of LACMA’s collection, including not just painting and sculpture from France, but also photography, works on paper, costume, and decorative arts from fin-de-siècle Europe, America, and beyond that engage with fashion, advertising, popular entertainment, and graphic design. This is the first work by Béraud to enter a major public collection in the western United States.

Gift of the 2024 Collectors Committee with additional funds provided by Rob Levine and Larry Ginsberg

- Ladi Kwali's *Water Jar* (c. 1962) is the epitome of the work that made the artist famous—large vessels on which she incised images representing the natural world of northern Nigeria, such as scorpions, lizards, and fish. Her blending of Indigenous and European traditions, combined with her impact on several generations of artists in Africa and abroad, makes her one of the most deeply influential African ceramic artists of her time. In concert with other works in LACMA’s modern and contemporary ceramics collection—such as pieces by Kwali’s advocate Michael Cardew and his mentors Bernard Leach and Shoji Hamada—the Ladi Kwali water jar demonstrates how the ideals of the Arts and Crafts movement persisted into the 20th century. This is the first of Kwali’s works to enter LACMA’s collection.

Gift of the 2024 Collectors Committee

- A first in the event’s 38-year history, funds raised during Collectors Committee Weekend will support a **new commission by L.A. artist Todd Gray**. Spanning approximately 27 feet, the piece will imagine what a visual archive of Afro-Atlantic transit could look like from the artist’s personal, 21st-century perspective. Inviting LACMA visitors to rethink art history, Gray’s work will be in conversation with the museum’s aim to propose new ways of thinking about the origins and circulation of aesthetic ideas and objects across place and time.

Gift of the 2024 Collectors Committee

- Aeronautics, astronomy, deep-sea exploration, and extreme climatology are but some of the thematic arenas out of which Tavares Strachan creates monumental allegories that tell of cultural displacement, human aspiration, and mortal limitation. Themes of invisibility, displacement, and loss are

central to his work, which questions historically canonized narratives that marginalize or obscure others. His text-based neon sculptures, such as *We Are In This Together* (2018), are an anthem for our political and cultural moment and an effort to mobilize community and societal change.

Gift of the 2024 Collectors Committee

About LACMA

Located on the Pacific Rim, LACMA is the largest art museum in the western United States, with a collection of nearly 152,000 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

Image credits: (Top row, left to right) Saeki Shunkō, *Photo Studio (Shajō)* aka *Daughter* (Musume), c. 1937, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, gift of the 2024 Collectors Committee, photo © Museum Associate/LACMA; *Pax with the Assumption and Coronation of the Virgin*, c. 1575–78, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, gift of the 2024 Collectors Committee, photo © Museum Associates/LACMA; Suzanne Jackson, *Nest*, 1971, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, gift of the 2024 Collectors Committee with additional funds provided by The Buddy Taub Foundation, Stephanie Roach and Dennis Roach, Directors, © Suzanne Jackson, courtesy of the artist and Ortuzar Projects, New York, photo © Museum Associates/LACMA; Manjunath Kamath, *Vikatonarva*, 2024, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, gift of Kelvin and Hana Davis through the 2024 Collectors Committee © Manjunath Kamath, courtesy Gallery Espace Art Pvt. Ltd., photo © Museum Associates/LACMA; Jean Béraud, *A Parisian Street Scene: Boulevard des Capucines*, c. late 1897–early 1898, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, gift of the 2024 Collectors Committee with additional funds provided by Rob Levine and Larry Ginsberg, photo © Museum Associates/LACMA; (bottom row, left to right) Ladi Kwali, *Water Jar*, c. 1962, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, gift of the 2024 Collectors Committee, © Ladi Kwali, photo © Museum Associates/LACMA; *Dish*, Turkey, Iznik, c. 1530–35, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, gift of the 2024 Collectors Committee, photo © Museum Associates/LACMA; Judith F. Baca, *Hitting the Wall: Women in the Marathon*, c. 1984, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, gift of Drs. Rebecka and Arie Belldegrun through the 2024 Collectors Committee © Judith F. Baca, photo courtesy of the SPARC & Judy Baca Archive

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