

**LACMA Announces 2024 Art+Film Gala Honoring Artist Simone Leigh and Filmmaker Baz Luhrmann****Gala Will Feature Special Performance by Charli xcx****The 13th Annual Event, Held on Saturday, November 2, 2024, Is Co-Chaired by Eva Chow and Leonardo DiCaprio and Presented by Gucci**

(Image captions on page 4)

(Los Angeles, CA—August 28, 2024) The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) announces the date and honorees of its 2024 Art+Film Gala. On Saturday, November 2, LACMA will honor Simone Leigh and Baz Luhrmann. LACMA trustee Eva Chow and actor Leonardo DiCaprio have championed the museum’s film initiatives since 2011, and will continue their efforts as the 2024 Art+Film Gala Co-Chairs. Musical guest Charli xcx will give a special performance at the gala following the global success of her zeitgeist-capturing new album *BRAT*, and Gucci continues its invaluable partnership with the museum as the presenting sponsor of the annual event.

“Simone Leigh is one of the most captivating and important voices in contemporary art, brilliantly melding an array of different artistic traditions and centering Black femme subjects in powerful and moving ways,” said Michael Govan, LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director. “Baz Luhrmann has crafted an emotional cinematic oeuvre over three decades, driven by his imagination and passion. We are excited to honor him alongside Simone and celebrate their remarkable careers.”

Now on view at LACMA and the California African American Museum (CAAM), *Simone Leigh* is the first comprehensive survey of the artist’s richly layered practice and her most expansive exhibition on the West Coast to date. Presented across both institutions, the exhibition explores dozens of key works from throughout Leigh’s

career, including pieces from the artist's landmark 2022 Venice Biennale project, as well as new pieces created especially for the L.A. presentation. *Simone Leigh* closes January 20, 2025.

"I'm excited to bring an incredible group of people together to pay tribute to the extraordinary contributions of Simone Leigh and Baz Luhrmann," said Gala Co-Chair Eva Chow. "I'm grateful to our longstanding partner Gucci for their profound generosity to LACMA and continued belief in the power of art and film. And I can't wait for our amazing musical guest Charli xcx to bring the house down. It's going to be a great evening!"

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.

## **2024 Art+Film Honorees**

### **About Simone Leigh**

Over the last 20 years Simone Leigh has created a multi-faceted body of work incorporating sculpture, video, and installation, all informed by her ongoing exploration of Black female-identified subjectivity. Leigh describes her work as auto-ethnographic, and her ceramic and bronze sculptures often employ forms traditionally associated with African art. Leigh first began exhibiting her work in the early 2000s and she has had one-person museum exhibitions at the Guggenheim Museum, New York; The Tate Gallery, London; and the Studio Museum in Harlem, among other institutions. In 2014 she presented *The Free People's Medical Clinic* in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York, a project commissioned by Creative Time. Her work was included in the 2012 and 2019 Biennial exhibitions at The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, and she is the first artist to be commissioned for the High Line Plinth; her monumental sculpture *Brick House* was unveiled in April 2019. In 2022, Leigh represented the United States at the 59th Venice Biennale with her exhibition *Simone Leigh: Sovereignty* and also *Loop Hole of Retreat*. Her work was also included in the Biennale's central exhibition, *The Milk of Dreams*, for which she was awarded the Golden Lion for Best Participant. Her work is in the collections of The Museum of Modern Art, New York; The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; The Art Institute of Chicago; and the ICA/Boston, among others.

### **About Baz Luhrmann**

Baz Luhrmann is a pioneer of pop culture working across film, opera, theater, live events, fashion, and music. His singular cinematic language continues to captivate audiences through a unique fusion of classical artistry and bold, contemporary style

that has ignited imaginations around the world and made Luhrmann the most commercially successful director in Australia. The first of his Red Curtain Trilogy, *Strictly Ballroom*, premiered at the 1992 Cannes Festival, and was followed by *William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet* (1996) and the Academy Award–winning *Moulin Rouge!* (2001). With these films, Luhrmann brought the movie-musical back into the zeitgeist with his infectious theatrical aesthetic and operatic sense of romance. Luhrmann's *La Bohème* (2002) went on to garner two Tony Awards, followed by the Academy Award–nominated *Australia* (2008) and his now-iconic Academy Award–winning *The Great Gatsby* (2013). Collaborating with Jay-Z on the *Gatsby* soundtrack, Luhrmann redefined cross-genre music in film, with the album setting a new record for the biggest digital sales week for a soundtrack in Billboard history. Always pushing the boundaries of genre, Luhrmann collaborated with Netflix on his critically acclaimed series, *The Get Down* (2016), and recently created the six-part Hulu series *Faraway Downs*. Luhrmann's latest film, *Elvis* (2022), became his most nominated film to date, while also winning four BAFTAs and 11 AACTAs. The film's Grammy-nominated soundtrack was produced by Luhrmann through his label House of Iona.

## **2024 Art+Film Performer**

### **About Charli xcx**

Avant-pop and electronic superstar Charli xcx has become an iconic figure in the arts, having helped expand the landscape of popular music over the last decade by seamlessly traversing the underground and mainstream with her artistic output. Over the course of a trailblazing career, the multi-hyphenate creative has earned critical acclaim for her innovative style and entrepreneurial spirit. In June, she released her sixth studio album, *BRAT*, which has become the most critically acclaimed album of the year. *BRAT* has made its mark on the cultural zeitgeist; her pop-up “PARTYGIRL” DJ sets caused roadblocks around the world, videos and surprise collaborations with Billie Eilish, Lorde, Addison Rae, and others went viral, and a new shade of green was introduced into the social lexicon. The album has been nominated for the Mercury Prize 2024 while “Guess featuring Billie Eilish” debuted at Number 1 on the UK Official Singles Charts, making Charli the first British artist to land at the top of the charts this year. Following the breakout success of her *Barbie* soundtrack contribution “Speed Drive,” Charli is co-executive producing the score for the film *Mother Mary* with Jack Antonoff and producing original music for Benito Skinner's series *Overcompensating*. Charli will star in the Daniel Goldhaber remake of the 1978 horror film *Faces of Death*. Last year, Charli was honored with the Visionary Award at the annual Ivor Novello Awards and recently received the Powerhouse Award at Billboard's Women In Music Awards and the ASCAP Global Impact Award.

### **About LACMA Productions**

LACMA Productions is an award-winning extension of the museum's film initiative. Over the last 13 years, along with the establishment of the Art+Film initiative, LACMA

has dedicated resources to producing short documentary films on artists including Judy Baca, John Baldessari, Ed Ruscha, David Hockney, Barbara Kruger, James Turrell, Robert Irwin, Mark Bradford, Catherine Opie, Betye Saar, Amy Sberald and Kehinde Wiley, and Helen Pashgian. 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, Tribeca, 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, Sini Anderson, Christine Turner, Anika Kan Grevstad, and Alejandra Vasquez and Sam Osborn. This year, Madeleine Hunt-Ehrlich will be directing a short film about Simone Leigh.

For more information about the 2024 Art+Film Gala tickets and table sales, contact [artandfilm@lacma.org](mailto: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 more than 150,000 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](http://lacma.org)

**Press contact:** For additional information, contact LACMA Communications at [press@lacma.org](mailto:press@lacma.org) or 323 857-6522.

**Image captions:** Simone Leigh, photo by Shaniqwa Jarvis; Baz Luhrmann, photo by Trent Mitchell; Charli xcx, photo by Harley Weir

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Gucci is part of the global luxury group Kering, which manages renowned Houses in fashion, leather goods, jewelry, and eyewear.

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