

PRESS RELEASE

Hammer Museum, LACMA, and MOCA Establish MAC3, Joint Collection of Contemporary Art by Los Angeles Artists through Gift from Jarl and Pamela Mohn

Gift Includes 260 Artworks and Endowment for Management and Care of Collection, and for Annual Acquisitions



(Image captions on page 4)

(Los Angeles, CA—August 26, 2024) The directors of the Hammer Museum, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), and the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Los Angeles, announced today the creation of a jointly owned and managed collection to be founded through the acquisition of 260 artworks from the collection of Los Angeles philanthropists **Jarl and Pamela Mohn**. The Mohn collection, largely amassed over the last 19 years, is comprised of paintings, sculptures, and mixed-media works by Los Angeles-based artists. The initial gift of artworks seeds what will become a continually growing collection as the Mohns will additionally create an endowment for annual acquisitions in addition to expenses related to the ongoing care and storage of the collection.

The collaboration is being dubbed the **Mohn Art Collective: Hammer, LACMA, MOCA**, or **MAC3** for short. On top of the Mohns' gift, the Hammer Museum will enhance the MAC3 collection with 80 works previously acquired by the museum through its Made in L.A. biennials since 2012. Additionally, curators from all three institutions gathered to make the collection's first joint acquisitions, when they unanimously selected 16 works from *Made in L.A. 2023: Acts of Living*. In total, the MAC3 collection amounts to 356 artworks.

The co-owned collection establishes a groundbreaking model for institutional collaboration and commitment to directly supporting the artist communities of Los Angeles. The gift will enable the three institutions to actively and collectively acquire works by L.A. artists on an annual basis, with acquisitions chosen jointly by curatorial

teams from all three museums. Every other year, those acquisitions will come directly out of future editions of the Hammer Museum's Made in L.A. biennial. During the alternating, non-biennial years, curators from the three institutions will work together to identify works for acquisition by visiting studios, exhibitions, and more to inform their ongoing discussions. The full collection will be available to each institution for display and will prioritize a lending program to encourage the works' display at other museums around the world.

The existing Mohn Collection includes works by more than 125 Los Angeles-based artists, including many who have appeared in one of the six editions of Made in L.A. to date, such as **Aria Dean, rafa esparza, Lauren Halsey, Luchita Hurtado, Arthur Jafa, Silke Otto-Knapp, Analia Saban, Martine Syms, and Kandis Williams.** The collection features numerous works by artists above and beyond those included in past biennials, including important works by artists **Karon Davis, Mark Grotjahn, Rodney McMillian, Cauleen Smith,** and more.

Additionally, it is hoped that the collection will continue to grow with works of art by contemporary Los Angeles artists gifted by other collectors and donors, establishing a new category of collecting and preserving L.A. artists' creative output through the collaboration of these three significant L.A. museums.

"Pamela and I are ecstatic to make this gift, not only to make these outstanding artworks by Los Angeles artists available to the public, but to do it in such a way as to foster collaboration among three of the city's most extraordinary museums in the spirit of this tight-knit community of artists," said Jarl Mohn.

"Jarl and Pamela Mohn's passion and generosity for the artists of Los Angeles is simply unparalleled," said **Ann Philbin,** director, Hammer Museum. "Their support helped to launch the Made in L.A. biennial 12 years ago and continues to sustain the exhibition well into the future. They doubled down on that support when they created the Mohn Awards, which provides L.A. artists with a level of notoriety—and financial resources—to further their careers on a global scale. And now they have made a gift of their collection, as well as the resources for it to grow, as one more example of their commitment to Los Angeles artists in the form of this unprecedented collaboration between three great L.A. museums."

"Only in L.A., a city that champions experimentation and out-of-the-box thinking, can such an unprecedented joint acquisition be made," said **Michael Govan,** CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director, LACMA. "Jarl and Pamela's generous gift to local museums is a testament to the wonderful friendship and collaboration our three institutions have fostered over the decades, and, more importantly, highlights L.A.'s stature as a vital hub of artistic creativity."

"We are deeply honored to be part of this pioneering initiative that not only celebrates but also nurtures the vibrant and diverse art communities of Los Angeles. The Mohns'

extraordinary gift is a profound commitment to the artists of today and a promise to future generations,” said **Johanna Burton**, the Maurice Marciano Director of MOCA. “The collection reflects the dynamic creativity and innovation that define our city. And this collaboration allows us to come together to continue supporting and showcasing the incredible talent within our local arts scene, ensuring that our artists’ voices are heard and that their works are seen around the world.”

Each of the three museums have collaborated on joint acquisitions of single artworks in the past—such as LACMA and MOCA’s joint acquisition of Chris Burden’s *Hell Gate* in 2007, or the Hammer and MOCA’s joint acquisition of Hito Steyerl’s *Factory of the Sun* in 2017, and LACMA and the Hammer’s joint acquisition of the complete archive of prints by Los Angeles publisher Edition Jacob Samuel in 2010. The Mohn Collection is the first joint acquisition at this scale to be acquired by three institutions located in the same city, with emphasis on showcasing artists from the region. Additionally, it is the first jointly held collection that will actively and regularly acquire new works through collaborative decisions made by curators from multiple institutions. The Mohns’ gift allows for a strengthened continuation of cultural collaboration, one that has been activated by regional initiatives such as Pacific Standard Time.

Jarl and Pamela Mohn have been longtime supporters of Los Angeles artists and museums, most notably in their support for the Hammer Museum’s Made in L.A. biennial since its inaugural edition in 2012, including funding the associated trio of Mohn Awards that are given to Made in L.A. artists. *Made in L.A. 2023: Acts of Living* concluded on December 31, 2023. As part of the biennial, Akinsanya Kambon received the \$100,000 Mohn Award; Pippa Garner received the \$25,000 Career Achievement Award; and Jackie Amézquita received the \$25,000 Public Recognition Award. In 2021 the Mohns made an additional gift of \$5.15 million to endow future editions of the biennial and awards. The Mohns have also shown their support for other L.A. institutions including recent major gifts supporting the Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, The Brick, and Los Angeles Nomadic Division (LAND).

About Jarl Mohn

Jarl and Pamela Mohn are art collectors and philanthropists committed to supporting emerging L.A. artists. Professionally, Jarl Mohn is president emeritus of NPR, having served as president and CEO from 2014 to 2019. Prior to that Mohn divided his time between being a corporate director and advisor to a number of media companies, making direct early-stage angel and seed investments in digital media/technology ventures, and managing The Mohn Family Foundation—the philanthropic entity that he and his wife created in 2000. In addition to supporting arts initiatives, the Mohn Family Foundation funded the Mohn Broadcast Center for KPCC, a significant contribution to Public Radio in Southern California. Mohn is the former chair of the ACLU Foundation of Southern California, and the former chair of the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism.

Previously he was the founding president and CEO of Liberty Digital, a public company that invested in the internet and digital media. Prior to Liberty Digital, Mohn created E! Entertainment Television, serving as its president and CEO from January 1990 to December 1998. From 1986 to 1990, Mohn was executive vice president and general manager of MTV and VH1, where he led the transformation from music videos to long-form programming. Prior to his career in television, Mohn had a 19-year career in radio. He began as a disc jockey and rose through the ranks as a programmer, general manager, and then owner of a group of radio stations.

Originally from Doylestown, Pennsylvania, Mohn attended Philadelphia's Temple University where he studied mathematics and philosophy. He currently lives in Brentwood with his wife. Jarl and Pamela Mohn's commitment to the awards began with the first six cycles of Made in L.A., and with this gift continues beyond.

About The Hammer Museum

The Hammer Museum is part of the School of the Arts and Architecture at UCLA, and offers exhibitions and collections that span classic to contemporary art. It holds more than 50,000 works in its collection, including one of the finest collections of works on paper in the nation, the Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts. Through a wide-ranging, international exhibition program and the Made in L.A. biennial, the Hammer highlights contemporary art since the 1960s, especially the work of emerging and under-recognized artists. The exhibitions, permanent collections, and nearly 300 public programs annually—including film screenings, lectures, symposia, readings, music performances, and workshops for families—are all free to the public.

About MOCA

Founded in 1979, MOCA is the defining museum of contemporary art. In a relatively short period of time, MOCA has achieved astonishing growth; a world-class collection of nearly 8,000 objects, international in scope with deep holdings in Los Angeles art; hallmark education programs that are widely emulated; pioneering leadership in museum sustainability; award-winning publications that present original scholarship; groundbreaking monographic, touring, and thematic exhibitions of international repute that survey the art of our time; and cutting-edge engagement with modes of new media production. MOCA is a not-for-profit institution that relies on a variety of funding sources for its activities.

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 illuminates 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 captions: Luchita Hurtado, *Untitled*, 1971, oil on paper, 18 x 24 in.; Arthur Jafa, *Bloods II*, 2020, Epson fine art print face-mounted to Diasec acrylic on aluminum panel, 26 x 40.375 in.; Diedrick Brackens, *Nuclear Lovers*, 2020, cotton and acrylic yarn, 78 x 72 in.

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