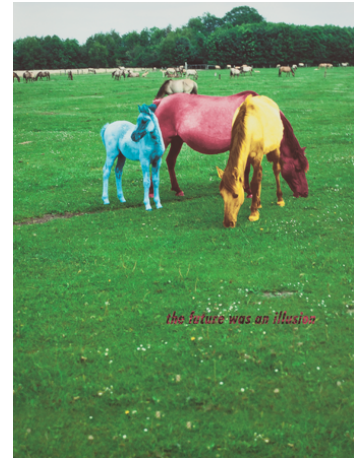


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THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART, LOS ANGELES (MOCA), ANNOUNCES 2011 ACQUISITIONS



The museum adds more than 230 significant works to its permanent collection

Major gifts of Los Angeles art from Laurence A. Rickels

Los Angeles—The Museum of Contemporary Art announces the highlights of its acquisitions for 2011, a year in which more than two hundred and thirty significant artworks were added through gifts and purchases to the museum's permanent collection. More than half of the works acquired in 2011 came from writer, professor, and collector Laurence A. Rickels, whose gift highlights the work of contemporary artists living and working in Los Angeles. In addition to numerous major gifts accessioned earlier in the year, a number of works from MOCA's exhibition *Under the Big Black Sun: California Art 1974-1981* were accessioned to the collection, deepening the museum's collection of works by California artists. With more than 6,500 works in its holdings, MOCA has one of the world's foremost collections of contemporary art, focusing on works created since 1940.

"MOCA has seen a renewed level of giving that reflects a growing confidence in the museum's commitment to the collection and its exhibition," commented MOCA Chief Curator Paul Schimmel. "Not since the economic downturn have we seen this level of generosity."

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"Laurence Rickels's transformative gift strengthens the museum's permanent collection and greatly deepens MOCA's holdings of significant works by Los Angeles artists," said MOCA Director Jeffrey Deitch.

GIFT FROM LAURENCE A. RICKELS

The gift from Laurence A. Rickels includes 122 works made almost exclusively between 1993 and 2003 by Los Angeles artists, with an emphasis on works on paper and photography. Included are a photograph from Catherine Opie's freeway series, featured in MOCA's 1997 exhibition *Focus Series: Catherine Opie*, as well as 13 artworks by Richard Hawkins, which nearly doubles MOCA's collection of his work, already one of the largest Hawkins collections at any American museum. Rickels's gift also includes works by John Baldessari, Jeremy Blake, Meg Cranston, Vincent Fecteau, Lyle Ashton Harris, Jim Isermann, Mary Kelly, Mike Kelley, Karen Kilimnik, Lisa Lapinski, Liz Larner, William Leavitt, Sharon Lockhart, Keith Mayerson, Dave Muller, Kori Newkirk, Jennifer Pastor, Raymond Pettibon, Stephen Prina, Allen Ruppersberg, Jim Shaw, Frances Stark, Diana Thater, Marnie Weber, James Welling, Pae White, and Christopher Williams. Rickels's collection reflects many contemporary themes and genres to emerge in 1990s art, including queer identity, photoconceptualism, and a Gothic sensibility, as well as his interest in new media and photography. Recently appointed as Professor of Art and Theory at Academy of Fine Arts, Karlsruhe, Germany, Rickels taught at Art Center College of Design and Otis College of Art and Design for many years, and his gift reflects his rich relationships with local artists.

ACQUISITIONS HIGHLIGHTS

In addition to the Rickels gift, MOCA acquired more than 100 works through gifts and purchases, including a Kai Althoff print, a Richard Prince drawing, and a Matthew Monahan drawing, generously donated by Beth Swofford; Baldessari's photographic work, *Two Dwarfs* (1990), Bruce Nauman's *Make Me Take Me* (1993), and three photographs by Bernd and Hilla Becher, given by Alan Hergott and Curt Shepard; a painting by Tom Wudl, given by Manfred and Jennifer Simchowicz; seven works gifted by The Broad Art Foundation, including a mixed media piece by Ashley Bickerton, a painting and two drawings, *Drawing for Claude* (1979) and *Drawing for Legion II* (1985), by Bill Jensen; and a Bill Jensen painting, *Ashes to Ashes* (2000-2001), given by Eli and Edythe L. Broad. Sheridan Brown generously donated six works, including *Free Space Meter Boot* (2000), a sculpture by Evan Holloway; *Papillon Nebula* (2007) by Slater Bradley; and *The Silent World* (2003), a painting by Steve Roden. Alice Aycock's *Project for Elevation with Obstructed Sight Lines* (1972) was purchased with funds provided by the Drawings Committee and will be included in MOCA's upcoming exhibition *Ends of the Earth: Land Art to 1974*. Elliott Hundley's *the Lightning's Bride* (2011) was purchased with funds provided by the Acquisition and Collection Committee.

The museum's collection of photographs was strengthened by several generous gifts. A set of 20 photographs by William Christenberry was purchased with funds provided by Dexter and Gina Williams. Six photographs by Brazilian artist Geraldo de Barros were purchased with funds provided by the Ray and Wyn Ritchie Evans Foundation and the Photography Committee. *Benny and Brucie at the Stoplight Café, Chicago 1965* (1965), a photograph by Danny Lyon, was included in Sheridan Brown's gift.

Late MOCA founding member and life trustee Beatrice Gersh and her husband Philip generously gifted three significant works by Jackson Pollock, Neil Jenney, and Cindy Sherman. These works, among others given by the couple over the years, comprise the current exhibition in memory of the Gershes, *A Tribute to Beatrice and Philip Gersh: Gifts to The Museum of Contemporary Art*, on view at MOCA Grand Avenue through April 2, 2012.

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Works added to the collection from *Under the Big Black Sun: California Art 1974-1981* include nine works on paper by Charles Gaines, purchased with funds provided by the Drawings Committee and a gift of Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects; six works by Guy de Cointet, gift of Brian and Paula Dailey, courtesy of the Estate of Guy de Cointet / Air de Paris, Paris; *Nanda Devi #2* (1979) by Joan Brown purchased with funds provided by Pamela West and a gift of the Estate of Joan Brown; three Robert E. Brown photographs, purchased with funds provided by the Photography Committee and a gift of the artist; *Mitchell's Death* (1977), the black-and-white video by Linda Montano in which she mourns her ex-husband's death, and *Garage Sale* (1976), a video by Bruce and Norman Yonemoto, purchased with funds provided by the Curatorial Discretionary Fund; six photographs from John Divola's Zuma Series, purchased with funds provided by the Photography Committee; and Howard Fried's video *The Burghers of Fort Worth* (1975-1977), purchased with funds provided by the Acquisition and Collection Committee.

IMAGES: Cindy Sherman, *Untitled #223*, 1990, chromogenic color print, 58 x 42 in., The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, gift of Beatrice and Philip Gersh; John Baldessari, *Two Dwarfs*, 1990, black and white photograph, 82 x 89 in., The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, gift of Alan Hergott and Curt Shepard; Diana Thater, *The Future Was An Illusion*, 1997, iris print, 36 x 24 in., The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, gift of Laurence Rickels

THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART, LOS ANGELES (MOCA)

Founded in 1979, MOCA's mission is to be the defining museum of contemporary art. The institution has achieved astonishing growth in its brief history—with three Los Angeles locations of architectural renown; more than 13,500 members; a world-class permanent collection of more than 6,500 works international in scope and among the finest in the nation; hallmark education programs that are widely emulated; award-winning publications that present original scholarship; and groundbreaking monographic, touring, and thematic exhibitions of international repute that survey the art of our time. MOCA is a private not-for-profit institution supported by its members, corporate and foundation support, government grants, and admission revenues. MOCA Grand Avenue and The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA are open 11 am to 5pm on Monday and Friday; 11 am to 8pm on Thursday; 11 am to 6pm on Saturday and Sunday; and closed on Tuesday and Wednesday. General admission is \$10 for adults; \$5 for students with I.D. and seniors (65+); and free for MOCA members, children under 12, and everyone on Thursdays from 5pm to 8pm, courtesy of Wells Fargo. MOCA Pacific Design Center is open 11 am to 5pm, Tuesday through Friday; 11 am to 6pm on Saturday and Sunday; and closed on Monday. Admission to MOCA Pacific Design Center is always free. For 24-hour information on current exhibitions, education programs, and special events, call 213/626-6222 or access MOCA online at moca.org.

BECOME A MOCA MEMBER TODAY!

A MOCA membership provides insider access to the world of contemporary art and the artists, collectors, and curators who make Los Angeles one of the most innovative and active art centers worldwide. Call the membership office at 213/621-1794 or email membership1@moca.org.

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