Introducing the new

Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti

Shrem Museum of Art

UCDAVIS
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The Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art began with a $2 million gift from Margrit Mondavi in 2010 and a $10 million naming gift from Jan Shrem in 2011. After an international design/build competition, the museum design, the Grand Canopy, was selected in 2013. UC Davis breaks ground for the museum construction on Saturday, March 1, in a community event celebrating the arts at UC Davis. The museum expects to open its doors in the coming few years.

The Shrem Museum will welcome visitors to make new discoveries through innovative exhibitions and individual interactions with art. Museum visitors will be active co-creators in the experiences that define the museum program, inspiring “makers” of all kinds. All who enter the museum will become students again—lifelong learners participating in one-on-one interactions with world-class art, artists and faculty.

“Our best opportunity for a community of excellence depends upon a collection of enlightened individuals.”

—Wayne Thiebaud, Professor Emeritus, Art, UC Davis

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THE FINE ARTS COLLECTION AT UC DAVIS

UC Davis’ collection of more than 5,000 works from antiquity to modern times will be available to visitors and students for a unique educational experience. A dedicated room will have a rotating exhibition of selections from the collection. It is this accessibility that will inspire visitors to engage with art and perhaps gain a new view of the age in which we live.
“The Grand Canopy design tries to bring a clear idea of the place where we are—the campus, the landscape, the region. I think the museum of the future is one that accommodates a lot of change; a museum on a university campus should be a testing ground for new ideas. The Grand Canopy itself offers a stage from which all of these different things can occur.”

—Florian Idenburg, Principal Architect, SO — IL
The museum design, the Grand Canopy, was created by SO – IL and Bohlin Cywinski Jackson, associated architects. Whiting-Turner, a construction company with offices nationwide, is the builder. Inspired by UC Davis’ expressive tree canopy, the Grand Canopy is an organic veil that brings together the portfolio of indoor and outdoor rooms into one immersive experience.

It places education at the front of the museum—an important aspect that defines this new museum experience. Classroom space and a rotating exhibition of the Fine Arts Collection at UC Davis will be an important part of putting an emphasis on creating new experiences with art, with artists and with faculty. With spaces dedicated to art and the making of art, the Grand Canopy incorporates welcoming civic places and academic facilities that put education towards the front of the museum’s activities.

The openness and transparency of the design creates places for self-discovery and challenges expectations. The design enables the programs that will make this museum like no other—a 21st century museum for a rapidly changing, technologically advanced world. Interdisciplinary exhibitions will engage issues and ask questions. Students and visitors will be given opportunities to make art and engage with artists. The architecture of the Grand Canopy was created to support this active co-creation. With flexible, reconfigurable spaces, the architecture itself becomes a participant in the rapid change that defines contemporary art today.
Living the Legacy

Only a handful of art museums have sprung from the fertile grounds of California’s central valley, where the agricultural roots of the land date back hundreds of years. UC Davis’ “terroir,” the characteristics of freedom and discovery that come from this land and this location, have provided a unique atmosphere for the exploration of art. For decades, artists have come to UC Davis because the place itself generated new means of expression and collaboration.

The concept of challenging expectations is not new to UC Davis. Since its foundation, the university has supported those whose vanguard approaches would make a broad impact on the world. This legacy has expressed itself through the arts since the Department of Art was founded and artists such as Wayne Thiebaud, Robert Arneson, Manuel Neri and Roy De Forest were hired on as faculty by Richard Nelson, the department’s first chair. Price Amerson helped assure that the tradition continued through tireless work with faculty and in building the Fine Arts Collection at UC Davis.

This legacy lives on through the Shrem Museum, both in its teaching collection and through its goal to inspire makers of all kinds. It will add to the distinctive tradition of student leadership by providing a place for collaboration with other students, faculty, alumni and professionals.

The University Transformed

At a time when universities across the world are challenged by the question of how technology influences education, UC Davis is working to continue the interplay between a 21st century education and the arts. The Shrem Museum is central to the university’s long-range campus plan to adapt to the changes in technology and education. This powerful investment in the making of art, the making of people and the making of community will stand the test of time.

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“One of the most exciting things about UC Davis is the legacy of art and artists that have passed through this institution. The legacy of innovation and irreverence are unique to UC Davis and will be nurtured in the museum.”

—Rachel Teagle, Director, Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art

TIME HONORED

At the groundbreaking, the contents of a very special time capsule will be on display before being buried at the Shrem Museum site. The capsule will include submissions from faculty, alumni and friends of the arts at UC Davis.

UC Davis also extends deep gratitude to longtime supporter Margrit Mondavi for her gift that launched the museum, ultimately helping it become a reality.

The groundbreaking of the Shrem Museum marks an important time in the history of UC Davis. UC Davis has held a space for a museum of art in its master plan for many years. Thanks to the generosity of Jan Shrem and his wife, Maria Manetti Shrem, the museum will now take shape.

Thank You

Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem

Margrit Mondavi

A promotion of the new Shrem Museum
You are invited to join us at the ceremonial groundbreaking of this new space for the arts.

Date/time: Saturday, March 1, 2014, 3:00 pm  
Location: Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, UC Davis  
Reception and art fair to follow.  