

Manetti Shrem Museum honors Deborah Butterfield, Clint Reilly and gifts of art at annual Fall Gala



Chancellor Gary S. May, artist Deborah Butterfield, founding donor Maria Manetti Shrem and founding Advisory Board member Clint Reilly at Gala. Photo: Drew Altizer

October 23 — The Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art, at University of California, Davis, celebrated artists, gifts of art and champions of the UC Davis arts legacy at its annual fall gala on Oct. 21, 2023, in Davis, Calif.

More than 150 supporters from the worlds of art, philanthropy and academia raised \$400,000 for the museum's mission of free educational programs and exhibitions. Guests included U.S. Representative and Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi and Paul Pelosi; museum founding donor Maria Manetti Shrem; UC Davis Chancellor Gary S. May and LeShelle May; arts supporters Shelby and Frederick Gans, and John and Gina Wasson; Artist's Circle exhibition supporters including the Bult Family, Sharon Twigg-Smith and Nancy S. Mueller; and longtime UC Davis supporters Jacqueline Beckley and Joan Roebuck. The gala co-chairs were Maria Bult, Pamela Kramlich and LeShelle May, and honorary co-chair Maria Manetti Shrem.

Artist Deborah Butterfield and arts philanthropist and founding board member Clint Reilly received the Margrit Mondavi Arts Medallion honoring their contributions to creativity and leadership in the arts. Founding Director Rachel Teagle and Manetti Shrem praised Butterfield as they cited the late Margrit Mondavi's special relationship with artists.

“Margrit recognized that artists possess a special alchemy, and tonight we honor that magic. Deborah Butterfield is a singular voice, and her impact straddles many worlds,” Teagle said of the UC Davis alumna and sculptor, who studied with first-generation faculty artists Robert Arneson and William T. Wiley in the 1970s.

In awarding the second medallion, Teagle cited Reilly’s impact as a founding member of the museum’s Advisory Board. “Clint Reilly is a true believer who paved the way for the Manetti Shrem Museum to preserve and perpetuate a distinctly Californian legacy, and he was instrumental in assuring that our purpose would be expansive and future oriented,” she said.

Gifts of art added to the generosity of the evening, with two remarkable new additions to the Fine Arts Collection on view. Teagle announced that *Buffalo*, a painting by Oakland artist Robert Colescott, had been purchased for the museum by Advisory Board member and alumnus John Wasson and Gina Wasson. And Gloria Marchant, whose family lent their Butterfield sculpture for the artist’s current exhibition, has gifted it to the museum. Butterfield had given the family this special driftwood and seaweed “gift horse” as a symbol of her friendship with Marchant and late husband Roy De Forest.

In a nod to UC Davis’ agricultural roots and the current exhibition *Deborah Butterfield: P.S. These are not horses*, the award honorees and Manetti Shrem arrived in horse-drawn carriages driven by the campus’ Draft Horse Driving Club members, with horses from the UC Davis Horse Barn. Cocktails, hors d’oeuvres and a music from a UC Davis string quartet welcomed guests. A three-course, wine-paired dinner by McCalls Catering & Events featured a gem lettuce and chicories seasonal salad, braised short rib tournedo, and a molten chocolate cake with elderflower gelato and raspberries. San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow and soprano Mikayla Sager performed during the dinner. The evening also offered a chance to see the museum’s fall exhibitions, and a rock band headed by Matt Bult of the Wayne Thiebaud Foundation, capped off the celebration with a set on the Events Plaza.

Art Wide Open

The Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art at the University of California, Davis, is a contemporary art museum for today, committed to honoring the past and shaping the future while making art accessible and approachable to all. It builds on UC Davis’ legacy of exceptional teaching and practice of the arts to offer engaging experiences, exhibitions and educational programs that reflect and serve the community. The museum shares the university’s core values of innovative research, interdisciplinary experimentation and a commitment to educational programming. A third of its 50,000-square-foot space is devoted to instruction, including a 125-seat lecture hall, classroom space and the drop-in Carol and Gerry Parker Art Studio. Opened in November 2016, the museum has earned LEEDv3-NC Platinum status and was recently named one of the 25 Best Museum Buildings of the Past100 Years by ARTnews.

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