

Manetti Shrem Museum honors artist Mike Henderson at fall gala; announces fundraising challenge gift

October 24 — The Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art, at the University of California, Davis, celebrated UC Davis Professor Emeritus Mike Henderson, the museum’s recent recognition for its daring architecture, and a surprise announcement of a \$3 million commitment to its endowment fund at its annual gala on Oct. 22, 2022.

More than 140 supporters from the worlds of art, philanthropy and academia toasted the transformational power of art and education and raised more than \$300,000 toward the museum’s mission of educational outreach programs and free exhibitions. Guests from Northern California and New York attended, including museum founding donor and arts philanthropist Maria Manetti Shrem, artist Mike Henderson and museum architect Florian Idenburg.

Founding Director Rachel Teagle announced that Maria Manetti Shrem, a dedicated champion of the arts at UC Davis, would renew her \$3 million challenge match. The first challenge, made in January 2020, was met and resulted in nearly \$7 million being successfully raised in two years for the Manetti Shrem Endowment Visionary Fund.

Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Mary Croughan presented Professor Henderson with the Margrit Mondavi Arts Medallion, which honors the spirit of the late Napa Valley patron of the arts who made the museum’s initial founding gift. Henderson taught art at UC Davis for 43 years, retiring as professor emeritus in 2012. The museum will open a major exhibition of his paintings and films in January 2023.

“At a time when students of color on this campus did not have ready mentors, Mike Henderson fostered the arts as a shelter, a place of freedom and expression, for his students,” Croughan said. “I can think of no better reason for an award than the profound work of fostering creativity and lifting up student voices.”





Florian Idenburg, the lead architect and founding partner of the Brooklyn-based architecture firm SO-IL, was also recognized by Maria Manetti Shrem for his award-winning design that led to ARTnews naming the museum as “one of the world’s best museum buildings of the past 100 years,” along with global icons such as the Louvre and the Guggenheim Bilbao. Idenburg lauded the leadership of the “strong women” — the late Margrit Mondavi, Maria Manetti Shrem and Rachel Teagle — who helped realize the vision to build the Manetti Shrem Museum.

A three-course, wine-paired dinner by McCalls Catering & Events featured a gem lettuce and chicories seasonal salad, grilled Sonoma lamb chop, and a chocolate cake, mousse and berries dessert. Internationally renowned cellist Sophia Bacelar performed following the dinner. Afterward, a one-night-only band put together by Matt Bult of the Wayne Thiebaud Foundation capped off the celebration with a set on the events plaza. Mike Henderson, an accomplished blues musician, sat in for several songs.

The evening also offered a chance to see the museum’s fall exhibitions — *Young, Gifted and Black: The Lumpkin-Boccuzzi Family Collection of Contemporary Art*; *Loie Hollowell: Tick Tock Belly Clock*; *Roy De Forest: Habitats for Travelers | Selections from the Manetti Shrem Museum* — and preview recovered works from the upcoming exhibition *Mike Henderson: Before the Fire, 1965-1985*.

The gala co-chairs were Maria Manetti Shrem, Pamela Kramlich and LeShelle May.

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. One-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 Past 100 Years by ARTnews.

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