

Manetti Shrem Museum honors visionary collectors and artists, raises fire relief funds at 2025 winter gala

January 30 – The Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art at the University of California, Davis, celebrated the arts champions and artists who contribute to the UC Davis arts legacy and shape the future at its annual gala on January 25, 2025. The evening raised over \$400,000, including \$45,000 for the UC Davis Foundation Board Student Fire Relief Fund to help students impacted by the Los Angeles wildfires.

The 160 guests from the worlds of arts, culture and academia included Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis; UC Davis Chancellor Gary S. May and LeShelle May; museum founding donor Maria Manetti Shrem; arts supporters Jean-Charles Boisset and Gina Gallo; Romana Bracco; Arturo Galansino; William and Deborah Harlan; Patrizia Sandretto Re Rebaudengo and Agostino Re Rebaudengo; Matthew Shilvock; and Rick and Karen Walker; and longtime UC Davis supporters Jacqueline Beckley and Leslie Herzog; Carol and Gerry Parker; and John and Gina Wasson. The gala co-chairs were Maria Bult, Pamela Kramlich and LeShelle May, and honorary co-chair Manetti Shrem.

Guests viewed two vibrant new exhibitions: *Through Their Eyes: Selections from the Sandretto Re Rebaudengo Collection*, with 60-plus works from the contemporary collection that is making its US debut at the Manetti Shrem Museum, and large-scale ceramics by Ruby Neri in her first solo museum exhibition, *Taking the Deep Dive*.

Patrizia Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, an influential art collector and arts advocate, and the late Manuel Neri, a pioneering artist and member of UC Davis' art faculty, received the Margrit Mondavi Arts Medallion honoring their leadership and championing of creativity in the arts.

"Patrizia Sandretto is cut from the same cloth as Jan Shrem and Margrit Mondavi, art collectors with a passion for education," said museum Founding Director Rachel Teagle. "Her collection, a vibrant tapestry of contemporary works spanning 30 years, is celebrated for its boldness and depth, and we are proud to present a selection featuring the powerful voices of women artists."

Manuel Neri, who was taught for three decades at UC Davis, was a key figure in the Bay Area Figurative movement. "His dedication to teaching shaped countless artists and left an enduring legacy in both art and education," Teagle said in presenting the posthumous award to his daughter Ruby. "We honor Manuel tonight and celebrate Ruby Neri, who carries forward her father's artistic spirit by reimagining his focus on the human form in her own bold and contemporary style."

Teagle announced that thanks to Maria Manetti Shrem, the museum has been able to purchase Ruby Neri's work "Woman Reclining in Landscape." In collaboration with the David Kordansky Gallery, all proceeds will go directly to the artist, who lost her home in the Altadena fire.

Founding museum donor Jan Shrem (1930–2024) was remembered with a moving video tribute created by Mauro April Zanetti. "Jan Shrem was one of a kind," Teagle said. "Our museum is testimony to his generosity and adventurous spirit."

Guests heard a performance by opera singer Mikayla Sager, performing Puccini arias, and enjoyed a three-course, wine-paired dinner by McCalls Catering & Events that featured a gem seasonal salad, braised short rib, and a cranberry pavé dessert. The gala raises funds to support the museum's exhibitions and educational outreach programs, ensuring that they remain Free for All.

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 30,000-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 numerous architectural honors, including being named one of the 25 Best Museum Buildings of the Past 100 Years by ARTnews. 254 Old Davis Road, Davis, CA, 95616; manettishrem.org.

Media contact

For photos by [Drew Altizer Photography](http://DrewAltizerPhotography.com) and more information, contact Laura Compton, lcompton@ucdavis.edu or 530-304-9517.