

LACMA's 13th Annual Art+Film Gala Honors Simone Leigh and Baz Luhrmann and Raises Over \$6.4 Million, a New Record for the Annual Fundraiser

More than 650 Guests Attended the Event, Co-chaired by Eva Chow and Leonardo DiCaprio, with a Performance by Charli xcx



(Image caption on page 5)

(Los Angeles, November 3, 2024)—The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) hosted its 13th annual Art+Film Gala on November 2, 2024, welcoming more than 650 notable guests from the worlds of art, film, fashion, and entertainment to honor artist Simone Leigh and filmmaker Baz Luhrmann, and featuring a special performance by Charli xcx. Co-chaired by LACMA trustee Eva Chow and Leonardo DiCaprio, this year's gala raised more than \$6.4 million—a new fundraising record for the event—to support LACMA's efforts to make film more central to its curatorial programming, as well as the museum's broader mission. Gucci, which has partnered with LACMA since the Art+Film Gala's inception in 2011, returned as presenting sponsor of the 2024 event.

"It was so moving to come together with this amazing group of people in honor of Simone Leigh and Baz Luhrmann, and Charli xcx closed out the night with an unforgettable performance," said co-chair Eva Chow. "I was thrilled to see so many familiar faces who join us every year to support the museum. I'm grateful to Sabato De Sarno for returning as chair of our host committee and to Gucci for their incredible generosity and partnership in making this yet another successful gala."

"It was an honor for LACMA to recognize the powerful, deeply layered work of Simone Leigh, which we are fortunate to have on view in our galleries currently, and

the remarkable craftsmanship and style of Baz Luhrmann,” said Michael Govan, LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director. “The Art+Film Gala is an incredibly special event thanks to the diversity of creative people who are part of it, especially our co-chairs Eva Chow and Leonardo DiCaprio. Their continued dedication means so much to me and everyone at the museum.”

Proceeds from the evening support LACMA’s film initiatives and future exhibitions, acquisitions, and programming.

Guests arriving at the gala took photos in front of Chris Burden’s *Urban Light* (2008) on Wilshire Boulevard. Following a cocktail reception on the Smidt Welcome Plaza, guests moved into the Art+Film pavilion overlooking Michael Heizer’s *Levitated Mass* (2012) for a dinner by Michelin-starred chef David Shim of COTE Korean Steakhouse, in collaboration with Patina Catering.

After a welcome from Michael Govan and Eva Chow, author, lawyer, and social justice activist Bryan Stevenson gave a tribute to Simone Leigh, accompanied by a short film by Madeleine Hunt-Ehrlich titled *This Material Life*.

“I accept this honor for all the Black women and girls who are odd,” Leigh said.

Anna Wintour then presented a tribute to Baz Luhrmann.

“Whether it’s music or fashion or theater or art or film, there are no silos,” Luhrmann said. “I’m particularly touched to be honored here tonight, because I know that’s what this night is about.”

After dinner, Colman Domingo invited guests back outside where Chloë Sevigny introduced musical guest Charli xcx. The trailblazing musician’s performance on the Smidt Welcome Plaza included hits from her globally successful new album BRAT, and Troye Sivan joined Charli xcx for a duet of the song “Talk Talk” to close out the set.

Notable figures from the art world attending the 2024 Art+Film Gala included 2023 Art+Film Gala Honoree Judy Baca, Tim Blum, Louise Bonnet, Lucy Bull, Johanna Burton, Mike Davis, Derek Fordjour, Charles Gaines, Rita Gonzalez, Chase Hall, Lauren Halsey, Heather Harmon, Amy Homma, Alex Israel, Sandra Jackson-Dumont, Shaniqwa Jarvis, Naima J. Keith, Christine Y. Kim, 2014 Art+Film Gala Honoree Barbara Kruger, Shio Kusaka, Dhyandra Lawson, Zenobia Marder, Deborah McLeod, Rodney McMillian, Jarl Mohn, 2018 Art+Film Gala Honoree Catherine Opie, Anne Philbin, Calida Rawles, 2019 Art+Film Gala Honoree Betye Saar, Cameron Shaw, 2021 Art+Film Gala Honoree Amy Sberald, Adam Silverman, Avery Singer, Princess Alia Al-Senussi, Shinique Smith, Mary Weatherford, Jordan Wolfson, Jonas Wood, and Cynthia Wornham.

Guests from the fashion, entertainment, and business worlds at this year's event included Ellis Ahn, Brian Jordan Alvarez, Omar Apollo, Sean Baker, Monica Barbaro, Javier Bardem, Maria Bell, Jason Blum, Lucas Castelliani and Paul Farr, Vittoria Ceretti, Peter Cramer, Viola Davis, Danielle Deadwyler, Cara Delevingne, Laura Dern, Colman Domingo, Peter Dundas, Joel Edgerton, Edward Enniful, Kevin Feige, Andrew Garfield, Kaia Gerber, Jami Gertz, Eiza Gonzalez, Mia Goth, Ellie Goulding, Dree Hemingway, Kathy and Rick Hilton, Nicholas Hoult, Robert Iger, Kim Kardashian, Anna Kendrick, Cooper Koch, Daniel Kwan, Greta Lee, Lee Ji-ah, Lee Jung-jae, Lee Soo Hyuk, Miky Lee, Blake Lively, Lisa Love, Justin Lubliner, Archie Madekwe, Mikey Madison, Ricky Martin, Stella Maxwell, Moon Ga-young, Morgan Neville, Dev Patel, Sarah Paulson, Taylor Zakhar Perez, Emily Ratajkowski, Michelle Rodriguez, Rowoon, Ted Sarandos, Daniel Scheinert, Wendy and Eric Schmidt, Yara Shahidi, Solange, Wilmer Valderrama, Darren Walker, Lisa Ann Walter, John David Washington, will.i.am, Jesse Williams, Yoshiki, and Rachel Zoe.

In addition to Eva Chow, LACMA trustees attending the event included co-chairs Tony Ressler and Elaine Wynn, Nicole Avant, Willow Bay, Colleen Bell, Allison Berg, Janet Crown, Victoria Jackson, David Kaplan, Geoff Palmer, Rich Paul, Eric Smidt, Andy Song, Wendy Stark Morrissey, Jim Tananbaum, Maggie Tsai, Casey Wasserman, and Jeff Yabuki.

Wearing Gucci to the 2024 Art+Film Gala were honorees Simone Leigh and Baz Luhrmann, Art+Film Gala co-chairs Eva Chow and Leonardo DiCaprio, musical guest Charli xcx, Gucci Creative Director Sabato De Sarno, Gucci CEO Stefano Cantino, Ellis Ahn, Omar Apollo, Madeline Argy, Loli Bahia, Sean Baker, Javier Bardem, George Barnett, Derek Blasberg, Devon Lee Carlson, Pietro Castellito, Vittoria Ceretti, Clement Chabernaud, Viola Davis, Danielle Deadwyler, Cara Delevigne, Laura Dern, Colman Domingo, Andrew Garfield, Kaia Gerber, Eiza Gonzalez, Mia Goth, Michael Govan, Bethann Hardison, Dree Hemingway, Reign Judge, Gabriella Karefa-Johnson, Kim Kardashian, Kaytranada, Miss Tina Knowles, Cooper Koch, Lee Jung-jae, Lee Soo Hyuk, Archie Madekwe, Mikey Madison, Dev Patel, Rich Paul, Taylor Zakhar Perez, Solange, Yara Shahidi, Mona Tougaard, John David Washington, and Malcolm Washington.

Wines by JUSTIN Vineyards & Winery. Signature cocktails provided by KHEE Premium Soju. Spirits provided by Diageo. Additional beverages by FIJI Water and POM Wonderful.

2024 Art+Film Gala Honorees

About Simone Leigh

Over the last 20 years Simone Leigh has created a multi-faceted body of work incorporating sculpture, video, and installation, all informed by her ongoing exploration of Black female-identified subjectivity. Leigh describes her work as auto-ethnographic, and her ceramic and bronze sculptures often employ forms

traditionally associated with African art. Leigh first began exhibiting her work in the early 2000s and she has had one-person museum exhibitions at the Guggenheim Museum, New York; The Tate Gallery, London; and the Studio Museum in Harlem, among other institutions. In 2014 she presented *The Free People's Medical Clinic* in the Bedford- Stuyvesant neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York, a project commissioned by Creative Time. Her work was included in the 2012 and 2019 Biennial exhibitions at The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, and she is the first artist to be commissioned for the High Line Plinth; her monumental sculpture *Brick House* was unveiled in April 2019. In 2022, Leigh represented the United States at the 59th Venice Biennale with her exhibition *Simone Leigh: Sovereignty and also Loop Hole of Retreat*. Her work was also included in the Biennale's central exhibition, *The Milk of Dreams*, for which she was awarded the Golden Lion for Best Participant. Her work is in the collections of The Museum of Modern Art, New York; The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; The Art Institute of Chicago; and the ICA/Boston, among others.

About Baz Luhrmann

Baz Luhrmann is a pioneer of pop culture working across film, opera, theater, live events, fashion, and music. His singular cinematic language continues to captivate audiences through a unique fusion of classical artistry and bold, contemporary style that has ignited imaginations around the world and made Luhrmann the most commercially successful director in Australia. The first of his Red Curtain Trilogy, *Strictly Ballroom*, premiered at the 1992 Cannes Festival, and was followed by William Shakespeare's *Romeo + Juliet* (1996) and the Academy Award-winning *Moulin Rouge!* (2001). With these films, Luhrmann brought the movie-musical back into the zeitgeist with his infectious theatrical aesthetic and operatic sense of romance. Luhrmann's *La Boheme* (2002) went on to garner two Tony Awards, followed by the Academy Award-nominated *Australia* (2008) and his now-iconic Academy Award-winning *The Great Gatsby* (2013). Collaborating with Jay-Z on the *Gatsby* soundtrack, Luhrmann redefined cross-genre music in film, with the album setting a new record for the biggest digital sales week for a soundtrack in Billboard history. Always pushing the boundaries of genre, Luhrmann collaborated with Netflix on his critically acclaimed series, *The Get Down* (2016), and recently created the six-part Hulu series *Faraway Downs*. Luhrmann's latest film, *Elvis* (2022), became his most nominated film to date, while also winning four BAFTAs and 11 AACTAs. The film's Grammy-nominated soundtrack was produced by Luhrmann through his label House of Iona.

2024 Art+Film Performer

About Charli xcx

Avant-pop and electronic superstar Charli xcx has become an iconic figure in the arts, having helped expand the landscape of popular music over the last decade by seamlessly traversing the underground and mainstream with her artistic output. Over

the course of a trailblazing career, the multi-hyphenate creative has earned critical acclaim for her innovative style and entrepreneurial spirit. In June, she released her sixth studio album, *BRAT*, which has become the most critically acclaimed album of the year. *BRAT* has made its mark on the cultural zeitgeist; her pop-up "PARTYGIRL" DJ sets caused roadblocks around the world, videos and surprise collaborations with Billie Eilish, Lorde, Addison Rae, and others went viral, and a new shade of green was introduced into the social lexicon. The album has been nominated for the Mercury Prize 2024 while "Guess featuring Billie Eilish" debuted at Number 1 on the UK Official Singles Charts, making Charli the first British artist to land at the top of the charts this year. Following the breakout success of her Barbie soundtrack contribution "Speed Drive," Charli is co-executive producing the score for the film *Mother Mary* with Jack Antonoff and producing original music for Benito Skinner's series *Overcompensating*. Charli will star in the Daniel Goldhaber remake of the 1978 horror film *Faces of Death*. Last year, Charli was honored with the Visionary Award at the annual Ivor Novello Awards and recently received the Powerhouse Award at Billboard's Women In Music Awards and the ASCAP Global Impact Award.

About LACMA

Located on the Pacific Rim, LACMA is the largest art museum in the western United States, with a collection of more than 150,000 objects that illuminate 6,000 years of artistic expression across the globe. Committed to showcasing a multitude of art histories, LACMA exhibits and interprets works of art from new and unexpected points of view that are informed by the region's rich cultural heritage and diverse population. LACMA's spirit of experimentation is reflected in its work with artists, technologists, and thought leaders as well as in its regional, national, and global partnerships to share collections and programs, create pioneering initiatives, and engage new audiences.

Location: 5905 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90036. lacma.org

Image caption: (Left to right) Gucci CEO Stefano Cantino, LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director Michael Govan, 2024 Art+Film Gala Honoree Baz Luhrmann, Art+Film Gala Co-chair Eva Chow, 2024 Art+Film Gala Honoree Simone Leigh, and Gucci Creative Director Sabato De Sarno, photo by Jojo Korsh/BFA.com

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