

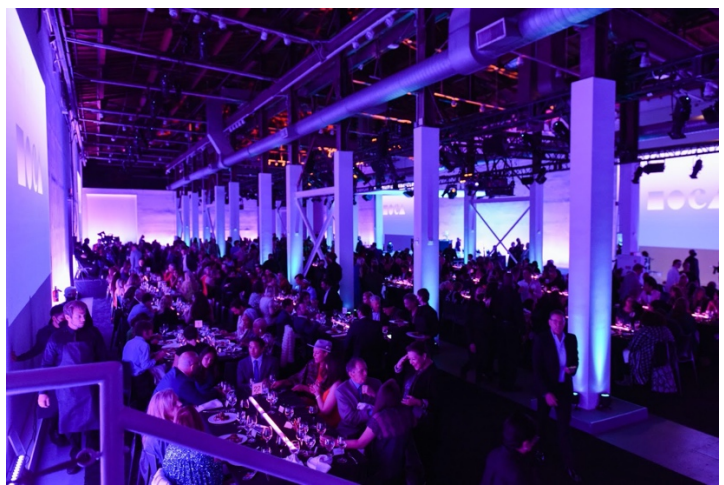
THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sunday, June 5, 2022

**MOCA GALA 2022 RETURNS AFTER THREE YEARS
UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF DIRECTOR JOHANNA BURTON**

***Over 600 Patrons and Notable Figures from Art, Entertainment and Fashion Raise
Over \$2.9 Million for the Museum with Performance by Chance the Rapper***



Captions, upper left clockwise: MOCA Director, Johanna Burton; 2022 MOCA Gala at The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA; Johanna Burton, MOCA Board President Carolyn Clark Powers, and MOCA Board Chair Maria Seferian; Chance the Rapper performance.

LOS ANGELES, CA—The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) celebrated its 2022 Gala at The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA on the evening of Saturday, June 4, with over 600 patrons, artists, and entertainment figures in attendance. Marking the closing weekend of the exhibition *Pipilotti Rist: Big Heartedness, Be My Neighbor*, the event

featured a performance by **Chance the Rapper** during the seated dinner portion. The evening raised over **\$2.9 million** for the museum's operations and was the first MOCA Gala under the leadership of The Maurice Marciano Director of MOCA, Johanna Burton. This year's MOCA Gala also introduced a new element—the Gala Dance Party—which was in collaboration with **Pipilotti Rist** and featured a set by **DJ Heidi Lawden**. The event also toasted the Los Angeles-based artists featured in MOCA's upcoming fall and winter season; **Judith F. Baca, Garrett Bradley, Simone Forti, Tala Madani, and Henry Taylor**.

"My first MOCA Gala was a truly invigorating and inspiring experience," said The Maurice Marciano Director of MOCA, Johanna Burton. "I am so moved by the outpouring of support for MOCA and am deeply grateful to our supporters, our community, and to the many others who made this evening possible. These festivities mark an important moment for the museum, as we look forward to an ambitious slate of exceptional exhibitions and programming, and to our next era."

"I am filled with gratitude for the enthusiasm we witnessed for this year's MOCA Gala," said Carolyn Clark Powers, MOCA Board of Trustees President and Advancement Committee Co-Chair. "It was especially encouraging to see so many new patrons becoming a part of our thriving MOCA community. The joyous spirit of the evening, coupled with an atmosphere filled with dancing and art, was incredibly uplifting. It is with this passion and commitment from our supporters that we are able to continue to provide meaningful art experiences to the public. That is really our heartfelt goal."

Burton worked closely with MOCA Board of Trustees Advancement Co-Chairs, President Carolyn Clark Powers and Terri Smooke, and with artist Pipilotti Rist to plan a colorful celebration of MOCA. The MOCA Gala was part of a festive weekend of closing celebration activities that included a dance party on Saturday night and an artist talk with Pipilotti Rist and MOCA Curator Anna Katz on Sunday afternoon. The museum also offered free admission to the exhibition during its final two days, June 5 and 6, 2022.

The evening began with a cocktail reception, followed by an exhibition viewing of *Pipilotti Rist: Big Heartedness, Be My Neighbor*, the first West Coast survey of the renowned artist's work, as well as the exhibition *Lonesome Crowded West: Works from MOCA's Collection*.

Maria Seferian, MOCA Board of Trustees Chair said, "I want to thank the Gala Co-Chairs and fellow MOCA Trustees, Board President Carolyn Powers and Terri Smooke, as well as the entire MOCA Board, the 2022 Gala Host Committee, MOCA's staff and all of the artists and guests in attendance for their participation in this special evening. MOCA is an independent museum made stronger by our supporters and community."

As the MOCA Gala dinner began, remarks were initiated by Seferian and Burton. MOCA's Fall and Winter exhibitions were also celebrated, each by a Los Angeles-based artist. [Judith F. Baca: World Wall](#), [Garrett Bradley: American Rhapsody](#), and [Tala Madani: Biscuits](#) open at MOCA Geffen on September 10, 2022. At MOCA Grand Avenue, [Henry Taylor: B Side](#), opens on November 6, 2022 and [Simone Forti](#) opens in January 2023. MOCA Trustees, staff, and guests participated in Pipilotti Rist's performance *Humming Neighbors*, an interactive moment that brought the crowd together in sound.

Following dinner was a performance by Grammy award-winning musician Chance the Rapper. He performed his hit single "Blessings" as well as his most recent releases "Child of God" and "A Bar About A Bar," the first two pieces from his forthcoming interdisciplinary art project exploring the relationship between music, cinema, and contemporary art. Additionally, he took a moment to remark on MOCA's ability to support a community dedicated to artistic creation

The 2022 Gala featured a variety of prominent guests and figures from the entertainment, design, film, and music industries. In attendance was performer **Chance the Rapper**, joined by entertainment figures including, among many

MOCA GALA 2022 RETURNS UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF DIRECTOR JOHANNA BURTON

Page 3 of 4

others, **George Bianchini, Christina Hendricks, Lisa Love, Keanu Reeves** and **Eva Longoria**; MOCA Trustees including **Maria Sefarian, Chair; Carolyn Clark Powers, President; Jennifer Hawks Djawadi, Clifford Einstein, Susan Gersh, Mark Grotjahn, Deborah Irmis, Eugenio Lopez, Mary Martin, Nancy Kwon Merrihew, Adam Nathanson, Corinne Opman, Pete Scantland, Chara Schreyer, Jeffrey Soros, Carlo Traglio, Dallas Price-Van Breda, and Christopher Walker**; artists and art world figures including **Doug Aitken, Kelly Akashi, Tanya Bonakdar, Andrea Bowers, Karon Davis, Anat Ebgi, rafa esparza, Ron Finley, Francesca Gabbiani, Charles Gaines, Daniel T. Gaitor-Lomack, Michael Govan, Alexandra Grant, Trulee Hall, Lauren Halsey, Alex Israel, Patrick Jackson, Christine Sun Kim, Tala Madani, Paul McCarthy, Julien Nguyen, Lari Pittman, William Pope.L, Shaun Caley Regen, Pipliotti Rist, Max Hooper Schneider, Martine Syms, Henry Taylor, Mary Weatherford, Jordan Wolfson, and Anicka Yi.**

The night concluded with a lively dance party with music by **DJ Heidi Lawden**. Gala Dance Party guests included **Buddy, Dana Boulos, Gia Coppola, clintn lord, Deanna Lawson, Cameron Silver, Jen Star, Honor Titus, Tracy Tutor**, among others.



Caption: Gala Dance Party guests; DJ Heidi Lawden

Image credit: Photos by Jojo Korsh / BFA.com and Owen Kolasinski / BFA.com.

THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

About MOCA: Founded in 1979, MOCA is the defining museum of contemporary art. In a relatively short period of time, MOCA has achieved astonishing growth; a world-class permanent collection of more than 7,500 objects, international in scope and among the finest in the world; hallmark education programs that are widely emulated; award-winning publications that present original scholarship; groundbreaking monographic, touring, and thematic exhibitions of international repute that survey the art of our time; and cutting-edge engagement with modes of new media production. MOCA is a not-for-profit institution that relies on a variety of funding sources for its activities.

More Information: For 24-hour information on current exhibitions, education programs, and special events, call 213/626-6222 or access MOCA online at moca.org.

###

MEDIA CONTACTS

Eva Seta

MOCA, Director, Communications

eseta@moca.org

MOCA GALA 2022 RETURNS UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF DIRECTOR JOHANNA BURTON
Page 4 of 4

Amy Hood
MOCA, Chief Communications Officer
ahood@moca.org

Darius Sabbaghzadeh
Third Eye
darius@hellothirdeye.com