

# BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Blanton Museum of Art Announces 2017 Gala Celebrating  
the Opening of the Museum's Renovated and Reinstalled Permanent Collection Galleries  
and Honoring Jeanne and Michael L. Klein**



Austin, TX—December 15, 2016—The Blanton Museum of Art at The University of Texas at Austin announces the 2017 Blanton Gala. This black-tie event will take place on the evening of **Saturday, February 11, 2017**, and will mark the celebratory unveiling of the museum's renovated and reinstalled permanent collection galleries. The 2017 Blanton Gala will also honor nationally recognized collectors, Austin community leaders, and Blanton National Leadership Board members **Jeanne and Michael L. Klein** for their generous and passionate support of the Blanton.

The Blanton Gala is a biennial event that raises essential support for the museum's key programs and draws arts patrons and community and business leaders from around Texas and beyond. The generosity of Gala supporters is vital to the Blanton's ongoing success and impacts every aspect of the museum's mission to bring the life-enhancing power of art to visitors of all ages.

"For the first time in ten years, the Blanton has comprehensively reshaped and redefined the presentation of its permanent collection," remarks Blanton Director Simone Wicha. "We are thrilled to premier the reinstallation for Gala guests and unveil the new Blanton for the Austin community. At this special moment, it feels especially fitting for the museum to honor Jeanne and Mickey Klein. The Kleins' transformative involvement has helped the Blanton grow in its role as a cornerstone for the arts in Austin. They are beloved by our community and by every member of the Blanton team."

Culminating from more than five years of planning, this engaging new installation presents the Blanton's celebrated holdings in Latin American, American, Renaissance, and Baroque art in fresh

ways and also showcases new areas of focus. Gala guests will be the first to experience the Blanton's reimagined permanent collection, while enjoying cocktails in the museum's soaring Rapoport Atrium, an elegant dinner in the first-floor galleries, and music and other entertainment throughout the evening.

Gala honorees Jeanne and Michael L. Klein are widely recognized for their unwavering commitment to the arts and education. Through more than fifteen years of involvement at the Blanton, the Kleins have helped the museum acquire numerous new works of art, including its treasured atrium installation, *Stacked Waters* (2009) by Teresita Fernández, underwritten curatorial salaries, and funded exhibition programs. The Kleins are also major contributors to Ellsworth Kelly's *Austin*, an artist-designed building currently being constructed on the grounds of the museum. These generous contributions have been pivotal to the Blanton's growth, helping to shape it into a nationally recognized art museum for Austin and one of the country's leading university art museums. The Blanton is proud to celebrate the Kleins' visionary leadership at the 2017 Gala.

### **Austin Co-Chairs**

Sabrina Brown  
Jocelyn Hornblower  
Fredericka Middleton

### **Regional Chairs**

Kelli and Eddy Blanton, *Houston*  
Sally and Tom Dunning, *Dallas*  
Anthony Grant, *New York*  
Shannon and Mark Hart, *Fort Worth*  
Jenny and Trey Laird, *New York*  
Virginia Lebermann, *Marfa*  
Anthony and Celeste Meier, *San Francisco*  
Marlene Nathan Meyerson, *Santa Fe*  
Kit Moncrief, *Fort Worth*  
Jack Shear, *Spencertown, NY*  
Darren Walker and David Beitzel, *New York*

### **Tables for ten are available at four levels:**

\$100,000 // \$50,000 // \$25,000 // \$15,000

*A limited number of individual tickets are also available for \$1,500 per seat.*

For more information or to reserve a table, please contact Sarah Burleson at 512.475.6013, [gala@blantonmuseum.org](mailto:gala@blantonmuseum.org), or visit [www.blantonmuseum.org/gala](http://www.blantonmuseum.org/gala)

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**About the Blanton Museum of Art**

Founded in 1963, the Blanton Museum of Art holds the largest public collection in Central Texas with almost 18,000 objects. Recognized for its modern and contemporary American and Latin American art, Italian Renaissance and Baroque paintings, and encyclopedic collection of prints and drawings, the Blanton offers thought-provoking, visually arresting, and personally moving encounters with art.

The museum is located at the intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Congress Avenue and is open Tuesday through Friday from 10–5, Saturday from 11–5, and Sunday from 1–5. Thursdays are free admission days and every third Thursday the museum is open until 9. Admission Prices: Adults \$9, Kids 12 and under FREE, Seniors (65+) \$7, Youth/College Students (13–21) \$5. Admission is free to members, all current UT ID-holders. For additional information call (512) 471-7324 or visit [www.blantonmuseum.org](http://www.blantonmuseum.org).