

Phoenix Art Museum

News Release

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Phoenix Art Museum to premiere works by Andy Warhol, Louise Lawler, and others alongside recently acquired painting by New York-based painter Shara Hughes

Present Tense: Selections from the Lenhardt Collection showcases highlights from the private collection of Dawn and David Lenhardt in gallery to be named after the Phoenix-based collectors.

PHOENIX (July 11, 2018) – Starting September 8, Phoenix Art Museum will present an exhibition of artworks by various masters of modern and contemporary art. *Present Tense: Selections from the Lenhardt Collection* showcases more than 20 paintings, prints, photographs, and sculptures by artists including Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, Damien Hirst, Louise Lawler, and others, all drawn from the private collection of Dawn and David Lenhardt. The exhibition will also feature a recent Museum acquisition, entitled *Narnia*, by Brooklyn-based painter Shara Hughes, a contemporary artist who was a standout in the 2017 Whitney Biennial. Both the exhibition and the acquisition are key elements of the Dawn and David Lenhardt Contemporary Art Initiative, a program launched in 2017 with the aim of strengthening the Museum’s focus on contemporary art. *Present Tense* will be on view from September 8 through December 16, 2018 in the Museum’s soon-to-be-named Dawn and David Lenhardt Gallery. An official gallery dedication for the Dawn and David Lenhardt Gallery and an artist reception with Shara Hughes (open to Circles Members at the Benefactor’s Circle and above), followed by a lecture with Shara Hughes (open to the public), will take place on October 24, 2018.



Shara Hughes, *Narnia*, oil and acrylic on canvas, 2017. Collection of Phoenix Art Museum. Purchased with funds provided by the Dawn and David Lenhardt Emerging Artist Acquisition Fund.

“Phoenix Art Museum is delighted to share this important selection of modern and contemporary artwork with our community,” said Amada Cruz, the Sybil Harrington Director and CEO of Phoenix Art Museum. “We are grateful to Dawn and David

Lenhardt for their generosity and their commitment to helping the Museum bring world-class art to Phoenix. Exhibitions like *Present Tense* will help to establish the Museum as a premier contemporary-art destination in the United States.”

Launched in 2017, the [Dawn and David Lenhardt Contemporary Art Initiative](#) enables the Museum to strengthen its focus on contemporary art collecting, education, and exhibitions through multiple programs, including the annual Lenhardt Lecture; a named gallery space featuring a rotating series of loans from the Lenhardt family’s private collection; and the Lenhardt Emerging Artist Acquisition Fund, which allows the Museum to acquire work by next-generation contemporary artists. Hughes’ *Narnia* is the first artwork acquired by the Museum using funds provided by the Dawn and David Lenhardt Emerging Artist Acquisition Fund. Additionally, Hughes will visit the Museum on October 24, 2018 as the inaugural speaker for the first lecture in the Emerging Artist Lecture Series presented by the Dawn and David Lenhardt Contemporary Art Initiative. Tickets will be available at tickets.phxart.org in late summer 2018.



Ugo Rondinone, *blue red mountain*, 2016. Painted stone and stainless steel with pedestal. Image courtesy of the Artist and Gladstone Gallery, New York and Brussels. Copyright Ugo Rondinone.

Visitors to *Present Tense* will experience an impressive selection of paintings, prints, photographs, and sculptures, including a set of 10 Warhol Campbell Soup prints; a sculpture by Ugo Rondinone in the style of the artist's colossal work *Seven Magic Mountains*, currently on view outside Las Vegas; a late-career painting by Roy Lichtenstein; and a photograph by Louise Lawler that provides both an excellent example of conceptual photography and a compelling reminder of how the meaning of artworks change depending on the venues in which they are displayed. Additionally, visitors will be able to view the recently acquired *Narnia* by Shara Hughes for the first time. A fantastical landscape that references multiple styles of painting from Symbolism and Fauvism to Surrealism, *Narnia* features geographic rock formations that resonate with Phoenix's desert landscapes.

"*Present Tense* allows the Museum to highlight pieces acquired by Dawn and David Lenhardt within the last two years and foreground them against a contemporary master like Andy Warhol," said Gilbert Vicario, the Museum's Selig Family Chief Curator and curator of *Present Tense*. "We're fortunate to have the support of contemporary art collectors like the Lenhardts, who are interested in sharing their passion with the local community. These loans allow the Museum to give local visitors access to contemporary art while introducing them to younger artists that are impacting the cultural record. *Present Tense* juxtaposes several generations of contemporary artists in order to understand how ideas and impulses are communicated over time."

About the Exhibition

Present Tense: Selections from the Lenhardt Collection will be on view from September 8 through December 16, 2018 in the Dawn and David Lenhardt Gallery. This exhibition is organized by Phoenix Art Museum and is made possible through the generosity of the Dawn and David Lenhardt Contemporary Art Initiative. For more details about the exhibition, please visit phxart.org/exhibition/presenttense.

Admission is free for Museum Members; veterans, active-duty and retired military, and their families; Maricopa Community College students, staff, and faculty (with ID); and youth aged 5 and under. Entrance to the exhibition is included in general admission for the general public. During voluntary-donation times, the exhibition is offered free to the general public. Voluntary-donation times include Wednesdays from 3 – 9 pm, the first Fridays of every month from 6 – 10 pm, and the second Sunday of each month from noon – 5pm. For a full breakdown of general admission prices and hours, see bit.ly/VisitPhxArt.

To request interviews and high-resolution photography, contact Phoenix Art Museum's Marketing and Communications Office at 602.257.2105 or marqaree.biqler@phxart.org.

Related Programs

Lenhardt Gallery Dedication and VIP artist reception with Shara Hughes | October 24, 2018, 6:00 pm

Dawn and David Lenhardt Gallery dedication and artist reception. Open to Circles members at the Benefactor's Circle and above. To learn more about becoming a [Circles of Support](#) member, see this link.

Lenhardt Emerging Artist Lecture Series: Shara Hughes | October 24, 2018, 7 pm

Join us for the first Lenhardt Emerging Artist Lecture Series featuring Brooklyn-based painter Shara Hughes, a contemporary artist who was a standout in the 2017 Whitney Biennial and whose work, *Narnia*, was recently acquired by the Museum as part of the [Dawn and David Lenhardt Contemporary Art Initiative](#). Open to the public; **TICKETS COMING SOON**. See more info at phxart.org/events.

About the Dawn and David Lenhardt Contemporary Art Initiative

Through a significant gift made in 2017, the [Dawn and David Lenhardt Contemporary Art Initiative](#) seeks to elevate the Museum's commitment to contemporary art through multiple programs, namely the annual Lenhardt Lecture, the Lenhardt Emerging Artist Acquisition Fund, and the named Dawn and David Lenhardt Gallery space featuring a rotating series of loans from the Lenhardt family's private collection. The Dawn and David Lenhardt Contemporary Art Initiative is the first of its kind in the Museum's nearly 60-year history and represents a significant commitment to and investment in contemporary art at Phoenix Art Museum.

About Phoenix Art Museum

Phoenix Art Museum has provided access to visual arts and educational programs in Arizona for nearly 60 years and is the largest art museum in the southwestern United States. Critically acclaimed national and international exhibitions are shown alongside the Museum's permanent collection of more than 19,000 works of American, Asian, European, Latin American, modern and contemporary art, and fashion design. The Museum also presents festivals, a comprehensive film program, live performances, and educational programs designed to enlighten, entertain, and stimulate visitors of all ages. Visitors also enjoy vibrant photography exhibitions through the Museum's landmark partnership with the Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona. To learn more about Phoenix Art Museum, visit phxart.org, or call 602.257.1880.

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