



The Phillips Collection

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Phillips Collection hosts Annual Gala: Threads of Connection on May 5

Leaders and visionaries in the arts and philanthropy to be honored



WASHINGTON, DC—[The Phillips Collection 2023 Annual Gala: Threads of Connection](#) on May 5, 2023, will be an elegant and enriching evening of art, dining, and dancing at the museum to celebrate the Phillips’s robust efforts in education, cultural diplomacy, and innovation in modern and contemporary art. As The Phillips Collection looks to the next 100 years following a year-long centennial commemorative in 2021, this year’s theme, Threads of Connection, celebrates and reflects upon the engaging power of the arts and the contributions of leaders that are interwoven in the Phillips, the DC region, the country, and the world.

The Phillips Collection’s Annual Gala provides a platform to honor esteemed individuals who champion art and arts education. This year, the museum recognizes **Sam Gilliam** (*posthumous*), influential Washington, DC-based color field painter and pioneering abstract artist; **Klaus Ottman, Ph.D.**, respected writer, scholar, and Chief Curator Emeritus of The Phillips Collection; **Mera and Donald Rubell**, visionary collectors and founders of the Rubell Museum in Miami, FL, and Washington, DC; and **Darren Walker**, transformative changemaker, philanthropist, and President of the Ford Foundation.

The yearly celebration gathers Members of Congress and the diplomatic corps, corporate executives, artists, philanthropists, humanitarians, national media, leaders within the Washington, DC, community, and friends of the Phillips for an unforgettable black-tie evening and lively After Party at the museum featuring musical performances by the District’s own **Sylver Logan Sharp**, art activations, and more.

“We are thrilled to welcome guests to the galleries for a celebration of our work together, and to support the museum’s education and community outreach programs,” says **Vradenburg Director and CEO Jonathan P. Binstock**. “This year’s theme embodies both a tactile reference to our latest permanent collection exhibition, *Pour, Tear, Carve*, and its exploration of artistic materials and methods, while also embracing the broader ties that bind us through the restorative power of art.” This is the first gala at the Phillips under Binstock’s directorship.

All gala proceeds directly support the museum’s interdisciplinary education and community engagement initiatives grounded in principles of diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion to enrich lives, strengthen communities, and expand the definition of the museum experience. These include K-12 arts integration in education; creative aging through therapeutic art and wellness programs; and partnerships through Phillips@THEARC, the museum’s satellite space in the Town Hall Education and Arts Recreation Campus (THEARC) located in Southeast DC.

LOCATION

The Phillips Collection
1600 21st St, NW Washington, DC 20009

6:30–9 pm | Reception, dinner, and program
Purchase [tickets](#) or [make a donation](#)

9 pm–Midnight | After Party
Purchase [After Party tickets](#)
(Available to [members](#) and guests only)

2023 GALA HONOREES

Sam Gilliam, DC-based artist
Klaus Ottmann, Ph.D., Chief Curator Emeritus, The Phillips Collection
Mera & Donald Rubell, Founders, Rubell Museum
Darren Walker, President, Ford Foundation

CONGRESSIONAL HONOREES

The Honorable Donald S. Beyer Jr.
The Honorable Susan Collins
The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
The Honorable Mike Simpson
The Honorable Mark Warner

DIPLOMATIC COMMITTEE

His Excellency Ambassador of France Laurent Bili
Her Excellency Ambassador of Luxembourg Nicole Binter-Bakshian
His Excellency Ambassador of Portugal Francisco Duarte Lopes

Her Excellency Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany Emily Haber
His Excellency Ambassador of the Republic of Finland Mikko Hautala
Her Excellency Kirsten Hillman, Ambassador of Canada to the United States of America
His Excellency The Ambassador of Singapore Ashok Mirpuri
Dame Karen Pierce DCMG, British Ambassador to the US
His Excellency of Switzerland Jacques Pitteloud
His Excellency Ambassador of Estonia Kristjan Prikk
His Excellency The Ambassador of Japan TOMITA Koji
Her Excellency Ambassador of Italy Mariangela Zappia

GALA COMMITTEE

Judy Pomeranz (Chair), Beatriz Bolton, Connie Carter, Sarah Eastright, Julie Garcia, Barbara Hall, Meg Hauge, Barbara Hawthorn, Matt Indre, Jennifer Lavinbuk, Denise Long, Sarah Mills, and Courtney Toomath-West

ARTIST COMMITTEE

Desmond Beach, Marta Pérez García, Barbara Liotta, and Aaron Maier-Carretero

2023 GALA SPONSORS

The Phillips Collection is grateful for all 2023 Annual Gala supporters (as of April 18, 2023):

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PRESS COVERAGE

High-resolution press images are available upon request. Press interested in covering the event(s) must contact Lauryn Cantrell lcantrell@phillipscollection.org by May 1 to apply for credentials.

IMAGE: Marta Pérez García, *Your Hand*, 2020, Handmade cotton paper with embroidery thread, 19 x 11 x 2 in., The Phillips Collection, The Dreier Fund for Acquisitions, 2021

ABOUT THE PHILLIPS COLLECTION

The Phillips Collection, America’s first museum of modern art, was founded in 1921. The museum houses one of the world’s most celebrated Impressionist and American modern art collections and continues to grow its collection with important contemporary voices. Its distinctive building combines extensive new galleries with the former home of its founder, Duncan Phillips. The Phillips’s impact spreads nationally and internationally through its diverse and experimental special exhibitions and events, including its award-winning education programs for educators, students, and adults; renowned Phillips Music series; and dynamic art and wellness and Phillips after 5 events. The museum contributes to global dialogues with events like Conversations with Artists and Artists of Conscience. The Phillips Collection values its community partnership with THEARC—the museum’s satellite campus in Southeast DC. The Phillips Collection is a private, non-government museum, supported primarily by donations.

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