NEW YORK – Last night on Tuesday, April 9th, the Whitney Museum of American Art raised $5.2M at its annual Gala and Studio Party. This year’s event honored entrepreneur, philanthropist, and former NYC Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg for his lifetime support of the arts through his charitable giving and leadership in public service. Marking the fourth anniversary of the Museum’s move to its downtown home in the Meatpacking District, the evening celebrates the Whitney’s past year of achievements including the exhibition Andy Warhol—From A to B and Back Again and the upcoming 2019 Whitney Biennial. The event is generously supported by returning sponsors Michael Kors and Audi.

Founder of Bloomberg LP, philanthropist, and Mayor of New York City from 2002-2013, Michael R. Bloomberg is strongly committed to supporting artists and cultural organizations on a local, national, and international scale. As Mayor, his administration supported 500 public art projects and, as a visionary philanthropist, Bloomberg supports more than 600 cultural organizations around the world. Mike Bloomberg supports cultural programs and institutions of every discipline and size, including the Whitney. The Bloomberg Administration championed and helped fund the Whitney’s new building to ensure that a cultural institution would serve as a vibrant, publicly accessible anchor at the southern end of the High Line.

The Gala program and dinner took place on the Museum’s fifth floor Bluhm Family Galleries. Adam D. Weinberg, Alice Pratt Brown Director of the Whitney, Richard M. DeMartini, President of the Board of Trustees, and Robert J. Hurst, Chairman of the Executive Committee, paid tribute to Bloomberg. “Mike Bloomberg understands the connection between art and quality of life, that the arts are what bring communities together. He knows that where the arts thrive, cities flourish,” said Weinberg.

“The downtown Whitney, and all of the success we’ve enjoyed in the past four years, would have remained a dream without the support of the Bloomberg administration and Mike in particular,” noted DeMartini.
“What makes Mike truly special is the civic-minded breadth of his philanthropy—to institutions both large and small—which has inspired and improved the lives of so many,” added Hurst.

“Cities need the arts as much as the arts need cities. The arts not only enrich the way we see and feel and think about the world, they drive cultural, social, and economic growth. If you show me a city with a thriving arts community I’ll show you a city with a bright future,” stated Bloomberg.

Following the Gala, the **Studio Party** took place on the Museum’s first floor Kenneth C. Griffin Hall and Andrea and James Gordon Restaurant at Untitled. Guests enjoyed drinks, passed bites, and entertainment by Soo Joo Park and Zuri Marley. Both **Michael Kors** and **Audi** presented interactive photo booths, which projected the photographs onto a large-scale LED wall for guests to enjoy. The front of the museum was electric where guests interacted with the 2019 Audi e-tron, the first fully electric model from the brand.

Whitney staff present included Alice Pratt Brown Director **Adam D. Weinberg**, **Scott Rothkopf**, Senior Deputy Director and Nancy and Steve Crown Family Chief Curator, **Donna De Salvo**, Deputy Director for International Initiatives and Senior Curator, and Whitney Curators **David Breslin**, **Kim Conaty**, **Adrienne Edwards**, **Barbara Haskell**, **Rujeko Hockley**, **Chrissie Iles**, **David Kiehl**, **Christopher Y. Lew**, **Carol Mancusi-Ungaro**, **Jane Panetta**, **Christiane Paul**, and **Elisabeth Sussman**.

**GALA HONOREE**
Michael Bloomberg

**GALA CO-CHAIRS**

**STUDIO PARTY CO-CHAIRS**
Emma Bloomberg and Georgina Bloomberg

**STUDIO PARTY BENEFIT COMMITTEE**

**GALA & STUDIO PARTY ATTENDING ARTISTS**

*Whitney Permanent Collection Artist
^ Studio Party Only
GALA & STUDIO PARTY ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES


Entertainment  Neil Patrick Harris and David Burtka, Ellie Goulding, Diane Kruger, Stephanie March, Kelela Mzanekristos^, Frank Ocean, Young Paris^, Vanessa Williams


Business  Sara and Charlie Ayres, Marika and Neil Bender, Dan Benton, Helene and Ziel Feldman, Meg and Bennett J. Goodman, Hermine Heller, Michael and Ronnie Kassan, Peter Kahng, William P. Lauder, Julie and Billy Macklowe, Bruce Ratner, Bill Rudin, Gillian and Robert K. Steel


Social  Julia Arnhold, Arriana and Dixon Boardman, Naomi and George Fertitta

Other  Jody Arnhold, Joanna Coles, Anita Contini, Patti Harris, Speaker Corey Johnson, Jeremiah Kittredge, Kate Levin, Audrey and Danny H. Meyer, Gregory Annenberg Weingarten, Madelyn Wils

^Studio Party Only

ABOUT THE EVENT

Catering:  Union Square Events

Décor:  David Stark Design and Production

Lighting and Staging:  KM Productions
The Whitney Museum of American Art, founded in 1930 by the artist and philanthropist Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney (1875−1942), houses the foremost collection of American art from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Mrs. Whitney, an early and ardent supporter of modern American art, nurtured groundbreaking artists at a time when audiences were still largely preoccupied with the Old Masters. From her vision arose the Whitney Museum of American Art, which has been championing the most innovative art of the United States for more than eighty years. The core of the Whitney’s mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit American art of our time and serve a wide variety of audiences in celebration of the complexity and diversity of art and culture in the United States. Through this mission and a steadfast commitment to artists themselves, the Whitney has long been a powerful force in support of modern and contemporary art and continues to help define what is innovative and influential in American art today. For further information, please visit www.whitney.org.

Michael Kors
Michael Kors is a world-renowned, award-winning designer of luxury accessories and ready-to-wear. His namesake company, established in 1981, currently produces a range of products under Michael Kors Collection, MICHAEL Michael Kors and Michael Kors Mens, including accessories, ready-to-wear, footwear, wearable technology, watches, and a full line of fragrance products. Michael Kors stores are operated in the most prestigious cities in the world. In addition, Michael Kors operates digital flagships across North America, Europe and Asia, offering customers a seamless omni-channel experience.

Audi
Audi of America, Inc. and its U.S. dealers offer a full line of German-engineered luxury vehicles. AUDI AG is among the most successful luxury automotive brands, delivering about 1.812 million vehicles globally in 2018. In the U.S., Audi of America sold nearly 224,000 vehicles in 2018. 2019 marks 50 years for the brand in the U.S. Visit audiusa.com or media.audiusa.com for more information regarding Audi vehicles and business topics.

PRESS CONTACTS

Nadine Johnson
Evan Lenox
Tel 212 228 5555
evan@nadinejohnson.com

Whitney Museum of American Art
Danielle Bias
Tel 212 671 1846
danielle_bias@whitney.org

Michael Kors
Keaton McGinty
Tel 646-653-7489
keaton.mcginity@michaelkors.com

PMK•BNC on behalf of Audi
Caitlin Faford
Tel 212 373 6105
caitlin.faford@pmkbnc.com