

THE WHITNEY MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART CELEBRATES 2019 GALA & STUDIO PARTY



Above: Gregory Annenberg Weingarten, Adam Weinberg, Diana Taylor, Michael Bloomberg, Michael Kors.
Credit: BFA/Angela Pham

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

Neil G. Bluhm, Jenny Brorsen & Rich DeMartini, Lise & Michael Evans, Susan & John Hess, Soledad & Robert Hurst, Brooke Garber Neidich & Daniel Neidich, Gillian & Robert Steel, Diane & Tom Tuft, Regina & Gregory Annenberg Weingarten

STUDIO PARTY CO-CHAIRS

Emma Bloomberg and Georgina Bloomberg

STUDIO PARTY BENEFIT COMMITTEE

Simone Aptekman, Waiss David Aramesh, Paul Arnhold & Wes Gordon, Alina Baikova, Steven Beltrani, Carrie Berk, William Burton Binnie and Mari Rodriguez Binnie, Leyna Bloom, James H Brooke, Lili Buffett, Alyson Cafiero, Michael Carl, Zora Casebere, Liz Chen, Kipton Cronkite, Leah DeMartini, Massima Desire, Micaela Erlanger, JiaJia Fei, Delia Folk, Alexander Hankin, Emily Havens, Erica and David Hess, Flora Irving, Aurora James, Shaniqwa Jarvis, Elisa Johnson, Miles Joris-Peyrafitte, Molly Krause, Elizabeth Kurpis, Maggie Lee, Ryan Lee, Jessie Li, Sade Lythcott, Jessica Markowski, Selah Marley, Win McCarthy, Courtney Stroum Meagher, Vic Mensa, Evan Mock, Samantha Moray, Mia Moretti, Poppy, Polina Proshkina, Joshua Pulman, Zara Rahim, Sydney Sadick, Titanic Sinclair, Amir Taghi, Peter and Monica Tessler, Zita Vass, Kristen Joy Watts, Timo Weiland, Hank Willis Thomas

GALA & STUDIO PARTY ATTENDING ARTISTS

Ian Cheng*, Christo*, Petah Coyne*, Raúl de Nieves^, Brendan Fernandes, Derek Fordjour, Cy Gavin^, Rachel Harrison*, Nir Hod, Jacqueline Humphries*, Judy Glickman Lauder*, Julian Lethbridge*, Maya Lin, Glenn Ligon*, Willa Nasatir^, Julie Mehretu*, Ryan McGinness, Juan Antonio Olivares^, Alyssa Monks, Elle Pérez, Rachel Rose*, Jacolby Satterwhite^, Cindy Sherman*, Lorna Simpson*, Hunt Slonem*, Elizabeth Streb, Sarah Sze*, Mickalene Thomas, Leo Villareal, Leilah Weinraub^, T. J. Wilcox*, Firooz Zahedi

*Whitney Permanent Collection Artist

^ Studio Party Only

GALA & STUDIO PARTY ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES

- Trustees** Judy Hart Angelo, Flora Miller Biddle, Jill and Darius Bikoff, Neil G. Bluhm, Leslie Bluhm and David Helfand, Jenny Brorsen and Rich DeMartini, Lauri and David Carey, Joanne Leonhardt Cassullo, Vanessa and Henry Cornell, Nancy and A. Steven Crown, Pamela and Daniel DeVos, Beth Rudin DeWoody and Firooz Zahedi, Fairfax Dorn and Marc Glimcher, Lise Evans, Sondra Gilman and Celso Gonzalez-Falla, Pamela and Robert Goergen, Andrea and James Gordon, Susan and John Hess, Robert J. Hurst, Allison and Warren Kanders, Sonia and Gaurav Kapadia, Judy Glickman Lauder and Leonard Lauder, Raymond Learsy, Barbara and Jon Lee, Karen and Paul Levy, Crystal McCrary and Raymond McGuire, Brooke Garber Neidich, Julie and Doug Ostrover, Nancy and Fred Poses, Kimberly and Scott Resnick, Donna and Ben Rosen, Robert Rosenkranz, Rick and Monica Segal, Anne-Cecilie Engell Speyer, Jonathan Sobel and Marcia Dunn, Fern and Lenard Tessler, Laurie M. Tisch, Diane and Tom Tuft, Barbara and David Zalaznick
- Entertainment** Neil Patrick Harris and David Burtka, Ellie Goulding, Diane Kruger, Stephanie March, Kelela Mizanekristos^, Frank Ocean, Young Paris^, Vanessa Williams
- Art World** Alexander and Mollie Acquavella, William and Donna Acquavella, Corice Arman, Hope Atherton and Gavin Brown, Anne Bass, Lori and Alexandre Chemla, Amalia Dayan and Adam Lindemann, Kimberly Drew^, Sarah Gavlak, Milly and Arne Glimcher, Larissa Goldston, Brett Gorvy, Claudia L. Gould, Carol Greene, Jack Hanley, Jeanette Hayes^, Laura Hoptman, Lucy C. Mitchell-Innes and David J. Nash, Dodie Kazanjian and Calvin Tomkins, Justine Ludwig, Richard Mosse, Sandy Rower, Jack Shear, Jacqueline Sischy, Tad Smith, Simona Petrova-Vassilev and Theodore Vassilev, Yvonne Force Villareal and Leo Villareal, Candice Worth
- 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
- Fashion** Cristen and Nigel Barker, Ivan Bart, Coco Baudelle^, Stacey Bendet Eisner, Karen Elson, Nina Garcia, Donna Karan, Lane Gerson, Wes Gordon, Brett Heyman, John Idol, Michael Kors and Lance LePere, Alton Mason, Hilary Rhoda
- Social** Julia Arnhold, Arriana and Dixon Boardman, Naomi and George Fertitta
- Other** Jody Arnhold, Joanna Coles, Anita Contini, Patti Harris, Speaker Corey Johnson, Jeremiah Kittedge, 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

WHITNEY

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of American Art

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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.

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