



THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sunday, April 16, 2023

MOCA GALA 2023 CELEBRATES EXHIBITIONS BY CARL CRAIG AND HENRY TAYLOR, BRINGING TOGETHER WORLDS OF ART, MUSIC, AND FASHION

*Presented by Tiffany & Co., More Than 1,100 Patrons and Notable Attendees Joined Together to Raise
Over \$2.7 Million for the Museum*

*With Performance by Samara Joy, Followed by DJ Mirko Loko
with Special Guests Carl Craig and Moodymann*



Captions, upper left clockwise: MOCA Trustee Terri Smooke, MOCA Board President Carolyn Clark Powers, MOCA Director Johanna Burton, MOCA Board Chair Maria Seferian; Carl Craig DJing the Gala Dance Party; Henry Taylor and Carl Craig; Samara Joy performance.

LOS ANGELES, CA—The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) celebrated its 2023 Gala presented by Tiffany & Co. at The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA in the Little Tokyo neighborhood on the evening of April 15, 2023. With more than 1,100 patrons, artists, and entertainment figures in attendance between the Gala and Gala Dance Party, the evening celebrated the opening of *Carl Craig: Party/After-Party* at The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA and the final

weeks of the landmark exhibition *Henry Taylor: B Side* at MOCA Grand Avenue. The 2023 Grammy award winner for Best New Artist **Samara Joy** gave a special performance during the seated dinner, with the event raising over \$2.7 million for the museum's renowned exhibitions, programs, and education initiatives. In its second year, the MOCA Gala Dance Party featured **DJ Mirko Loko** with special guests **Carl Craig** and **Moodymann**.

"Over the last decades, MOCA's spaces have offered unparalleled opportunities for artists to push the limits, to call into question the very definition of art, and to forecast significant changes in culture," said Johanna Burton, The Maurice Marciano Director of MOCA. "In the year and a half I've been at MOCA, I've been struck by how often people use the word 'potential' to describe its mandate. Here, anything is possible. Indeed it is our job as a museum to hold open a space—real and aspired to—where the future can emerge, and where ideas can take tangible form."

The Gala evening began with a cocktail reception with guests being among the very first to experience the exhibition *Carl Craig: Party/After-Party* at The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA's WAREHOUSE space. The exhibition opens to the public today with free admission courtesy of Carolyn Clark Powers.

As the seated dinner portion of the MOCA Gala 2023 began, initial remarks were provided by Seferian and Burton speaking to MOCA's steadfast commitment to the artist community of Los Angeles, as well as its global reach. MOCA Board of Trustees Chair Maria Seferian commented on the evening's overall theme of Catch the Light. "At the core of any cultural practice is the paradox of knowledge: How can we see what we do not know? How does the invisible become visible to illuminate, reflect, and refract our surroundings to show us something that we do not otherwise see? This is what museums do. We reflect back on our world, and ourselves, to ourselves in order to see them in a different light."

In addition to providing the first-ever access to MOCA's presentation of *Carl Craig: Party/After-Party*, the event also toasted Henry Taylor, whose current exhibition *Henry Taylor: B Side* opened at MOCA Grand Avenue in November 2022 and has received widespread critical and popular acclaim throughout its run. This groundbreaking museum survey was inaugurated by MOCA and will travel to the Whitney Museum of American Art in October 2023.

Following dinner was a performance by jazz singer and musician **Samara Joy**, who was awarded Best New Artist and Best Jazz Vocal Album at the 2023 Grammy Awards. She performed "This is the Moment" (Hollander/Robin), "Can't Get Out of This Mood" (Loesser/McHugh), and a medley of "Guess Who I Saw Today" (Boyd/Grand) and "Lately" (Stevie Wonder).

The 2023 Gala featured a variety of notable attendees and guests from art, entertainment, fashion, film and philanthropy. In attendance was performer **Samara Joy**, joined by notable figures including **Ramsey Ann Naito, M Chow, Lisa Edelstein, Jodie Foster, Keanu Reeves, Jason Wu, and Jennifer Tilly**; MOCA Trustees **Maria Seferian, Chair; Carolyn Clark Powers, President; Brad Brooks, Kathi B. Cypres, Tim Disney, Jennifer Hawks Djawadi, Clifford J. Einstein, Susan Gersh, Mark Grotjahn, Deborah Irmas, Karyn Kohl, Eugenio Lopez, Mary Klaus Martin, Adam Nathanson, Corinne Opman, Heather Podesta, Dallas Price-Van Breda, Christina Quarles, Pete Scantland, Terri Smooke, Jeffrey Soros, Carlo Traglio, Christopher V. Walker** and **Orna Amir Wolens**; artists and art world figures including **Kelly Akashi, Marcel Alcalá, Eddie Rodolfo Aparicio, Diedrick Brackens, Carl Craig, Karon Davis, Kenturah Davis, Stan Douglas, Andrea Fraser, Charles Gaines, Malik Gaines, Nikita Gale, Piero Golia, Sayre Gomez, Kim Gordon, Alexandra Grant, Mark Grotjahn, Trulee Hall, Max Hooper Schneider, Alex Hubbard, Elliott Hundley, Greg Ito, Glenn Kaino, Shio Kusaka, Suzanne Lacy, Robert Longo, Tala Madani, Patrick Martinez, Paul McCarthy, Rodney McMillian, Catherine Opie, Paul Pfeiffer, Stephen Prina, Nancy Rubins, Robert Russell, Alison Saar, Betye Saar, Kenny Scharf, Gary Simmons, Martine Syms, Henry Taylor, Mungo Thomson, Honor Titus, Mary Weatherford, Jordan Wolfson, Jonas Wood, and Andrea Zittel.**

In its second year, the MOCA Gala Dance Party immediately followed the seated dinner, with lively sets by **DJ Mirko Loko** in addition to special appearances on the turntables by **Carl Craig** and Detroit Deep House legend **Moodymann**. Gala Dance Party guests included **Eric Andre, Angelique Bates, Brenda Barrios, Ken Davitian, John Early, Felix da Housecat, Kenny Larkin, Daniel T. Gaitor-Lomack, Tiffany Haddish, Christina Catherine Martinez, Jonny Negron** and **Baby Rose**.



Captions, upper left clockwise: Moodymann, MOCA Director Johanna Burton, Carl Craig; second annual MOCA Gala Dance Party; guests and atmosphere at 2023 MOCA Gala Dance Party; Carl Craig DJ set.

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About MOCA: Founded in 1979, MOCA is the defining museum of contemporary art. In a relatively short period of time, MOCA has achieved astonishing growth; a world-class collection of nearly 8,000 objects, international in scope with deep holdings in Los Angeles art; hallmark education programs that are widely emulated; award-winning publications that present original scholarship; groundbreaking monographic, touring, and thematic exhibitions of international repute that survey the art of our time; and cutting-edge engagement with modes of new media production. MOCA is a not-for-profit institution that relies on a variety of funding sources for its activities.

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