



Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden Celebrates 50th Anniversary with New York Gala

The event honored 50 artists, including Jeff Koons, Rashid Johnson, and Marina Abramović as well as architect Peter Marino

BY GALERIE EDITORS

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On November 13, the [Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden](#) and Director [Melissa Chiu](#) hosted its largest Gala to date at the iconic Shed in New York City. The evening was a special and star-studded occasion where many of the art world's best and brightest came together to celebrate one another and their contributions to American art and culture. The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture

Garden officially opened on October 4, 1974, a few years after financier Joseph Hirshhorn donated almost 6,000 pieces of modern art and sculptures to the federal government. Today, it is the national museum of modern and contemporary art and a leading voice for 21st-century art and culture, presenting trailblazing, contemporary artists while honoring its rich legacy.

As guests enjoyed cocktails, a memorable dinner and performance, Melissa Chiu and artist Jeff Koons gave a special toast to the 50 artist honorees for the institution's 50th anniversary. Those artists included Marina Abramović; Doug Aitken; John Akomfrah; Ali Banisadr; Huma Bhabha; Jonah Bokaer; Lucy Bull; Abigail Deville; Elmgreen and Dragset; Mark Grotjahn; Shara Hughes; Rashid Johnson; Misha Kahn; Clare Kambhu; KAWS; Baseera Khan; Kimsooja; Jeff Koons; Tony Lewis; Lin Tianmiao; Rick Lowe; Rafael Lozano-Hemmer; Guadalupe Maravilla; Wangari Mathenge; Linn Meyers; Marilyn Minter; Kent Monkman; Mariko Mori; Oscar Murillo; Shirin Neshat; Aliza Nisenbaum; Woody De Othello; Tony Oursler; Adam Pendleton; Christina Quarles; Nathaniel Mary Quinn; Ugo Rondinone; Pinaree Sanpitak Ilana Savdie; Tschabalala Self; Arlene Shechet; Vaughn Spann; Pat Steir; Tavares Strachan; Hiroshi Sugimoto.



2024 Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden Gala Honorees.

PHOTO: BRE JOHNSON, JASON LOWRIE, SABRINA STECK. IMAGES COURTESY OF HIRSHORN MUSEUM AND SCULPTURE GARDEN.

The Museum also presented the first-ever Hirshhorn Leader in the Arts Award to internationally renowned architect, art collector, and arts patron Peter Marino. In a memorable finale to the evening, Hiroshi Sugimoto, the architect behind the Museum's Sculpture Garden revitalization on the National Mall and an artist honoree, sang an iconic rendition of Happy Birthday as he presented a custom-designed cake inspired by Gordon Bunshaft's iconic architecture of the Hirshhorn Museum.

High profile guests in attendance included Marc Glimcher from Pace Gallery, the director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art Max Hollein, and arts patron Ronald S. Lauder.

See below for more pictures of the glamorous event.