

Press Release

BROOKLYN ARTISTS BALL

Brooklyn Museum

Brooklyn Museum to Honor Nick Cave and Bank of America at Eighth Annual Brooklyn Artists Ball on April 16

Tickets on Sale Now for Frida Kahlo-themed Immersive Gala

The Brooklyn Museum will host its eighth annual Brooklyn Artists Ball, the Museum's largest annual fundraising event, on Tuesday, April 16, 2019. This year's Ball will honor groundbreaking visual artist Nick Cave and longtime arts funders Bank of America. Taking place during the run of the critically acclaimed exhibition *Frida Kahlo: Appearances Can Be Deceiving*, this year's event will draw inspiration from the life and work of the iconic Mexican artist. Funds from the event support the Brooklyn Museum's robust exhibitions and programs.

"We are proud to honor artist Nick Cave this year for his tremendous artistic achievements which address pressing social issues of our time," says Anne Pasternak, the Shelby White and Leon Levy Director of the Brooklyn Museum. "We're also proud to recognize and honor the efforts of our longtime partner, Bank of America, for their leadership in arts funding and initiatives around the globe to preserve visual culture. We'd especially like to highlight the

work of Rena M. De Sisto, Bank of America’s Global Executive for Arts & Culture and Women’s Programs, who will be accepting the award on Bank of America’s behalf. De Sisto established the Art Conservation Project, which has funded more than 130 conservation projects in 30 countries—including the restoration of the Assyrian reliefs here at the Brooklyn Museum as well as restoration projects at the Museo Frida Kahlo and Museo Diego Rivera Anahuacalli.”

The Ball will begin at 6:30 pm with cocktails and hors d’oeuvres in the Museum’s Beaux-Arts Court, followed by a seated dinner and dancing. The iconic Beaux-Arts Court will be transformed by visionary event producer David Stark to pay homage to Frida Kahlo’s Mexico, complete with food stations and artist activations.

Dinner guests will enjoy a unique Mexican-inspired menu produced in collaboration with Great Performances, the Museum’s exclusive food service partner, and special guest chefs Carlos Arellano of Park Slope’s Chela, Justin Bazdarich of Greenpoint’s Oxomoco, Nathalia Mendez of the Bronx’s La Morada, TJ Steele of Gowanus’s Claro, and Chef Sue Torres. Guests will also enjoy access to *Frida Kahlo: Appearances Can Be Deceiving*, which opened to the public on February 8, 2019.

After dinner, the dance party guests will enjoy special activations and multisensory installations inspired by Frida Kahlo. Taking place for the first time in the Court, the dance party will once again feature DJ sets from Brooklyn Museum trustee and music producer Kasseem “Swizz Beatz” Dean, among other special guests. Full lineup to be announced. Dance Party tickets go on sale to the public March 4.

Artists Ball Chairs include Regina Aldisert and Brooklyn Museum trustees Stephanie Ingrassia, Carla Shen, Colleen Tompkins, and Amanda Waldron. Barbara Vogelstein will serve as Honorary Chairman. Host Committee members include Sarah Arison, Jill Bernstein, Jennifer and Steven Eisenstadt, Alyssa Fanelli, Karen Kiehl and Jeanne Masel, Miyoung Lee and Neil Simpkins, Galerie Lelong & Co., Francis Xavier de Mallmann and Natasha de Mallmann, Alex Mondre, Sabrina Merriman Peterson, Tracey Riese, Jessical Sailer Van Lith, Olivia Song, Anne-Cecilie Speyer and Rob Speyer, Cate La Farge Summers and Phillip Summers, and Ellen Taubman.

The event is supported by Bloomberg, Knoll, Revlon, Bank of America, Jose Cuervo, Bocanegra, and Lafayette148.

Tickets start at \$1,500 (limited availability); tables for 10 begin at \$25,000. Dance Party tickets start at \$75. For more information about the Brooklyn Artists Ball and Dance Party or to purchase tickets, visit https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/calendar/event/brooklyn_artists_ball_2019/, email the team at brooklynartistsball@brooklynmuseum.org, or call 718.501.6424.

About the Honorees

Nick Cave is an artist and educator working between the visual and performing arts through a wide range of mediums, including sculpture, installation, video, sound, and performance. His work has been exhibited globally at museums in France, Africa, Denmark, Asia, South America, and the Caribbean. Cave is well known for his “Soundsuits,” wearable sculptural

costumes that obscure race, gender, and class, and allow viewers to look without bias towards the wearer's identity. Cave has completed multiple self-described "Dream Projects" throughout the United States, Europe, and Africa, including "The Let Go" at The Park Avenue Armory in New York, "Here Hear Chicago" on Chicago's Navy Pier, and "HEARD•NY" in New York's Grand Central Terminal.

Cave currently works as a Professor at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He received his MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art and his BFA from the Kansas City Art Institute.

Bank of America

Each year, Bank of America engages in conservation projects at dozens of institutions and supports over 2,000 visual and performing arts organizations worldwide. The bank has been a lead supporter of exhibitions, conservation efforts, and general operation at the Brooklyn Museum for nearly twenty years. They have supported numerous exhibitions, including *Herman Bas: Works from the Rubell Family Collection* (2009), *Norman Rockwell: Behind the Camera* (2010), *John Singer Sargent Watercolors* (2013), and the current exhibition *Frida Kahlo: Appearances Can Be Deceiving* (2019). They have also spearheaded conservation efforts of important works in the Museum's collection, which includes a recent conservation gift that supports the complete documentation, cleaning, and remounting of six Assyrian reliefs. These reliefs are part of a larger group of twelve that once decorated the vast palace of King Ashur-nasir-pal II (883–859 B.C.E.) in ancient Assyria, a location now destroyed by ISIS militants. Bank of America has played a crucial role in helping to restore this much-loved treasure in the Brooklyn Museum's collection.

Rena M. De Sisto will accept the award on the Bank's behalf. De Sisto is the Global Executive for Arts & Culture and Women's Programs at Bank of America. Under Ms. De Sisto's leadership, Bank of America has become one of the leading corporate supporters of arts programs around the world. Notably, she created the Bank of America Art Conservation Project, which has funded more than 130 conservation projects in 30 countries. These include the conservation of the Brooklyn Museum's six Assyrian reliefs and Diego Rivera murals in both Mexico and Detroit, among others. She has also worked with the United States Department of State on several programs, leads the company's partnership with the Foundation for Art & Preservation in Embassies, manages the Bank's ten-year partnership with American documentary filmmaker Ken Burns, and oversees the Bank's partnerships with the Smithsonian, which includes being a founding member of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and the Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative.

Ms. De Sisto serves on the boards of the Metropolitan Opera, Theater Forward, Opera America, and the Finance and Development Committee of the ALIPH Foundation (International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas). She is also a member of the Chairman's Advisory Committee of the British Museum. She lives in New York City.

About the Brooklyn Museum

The Brooklyn Museum contains one of the nation's most comprehensive and wide-ranging collections, enhanced by a distinguished record of exhibitions, scholarship, and service to the public. The Museum's vast holdings span 5,000 years of human creativity from cultures

in every corner of the globe. Collection highlights include the ancient Egyptian holdings, renowned for objects of the highest quality, and the arts of the Americas collection, which is unrivaled in its diverse range from Native American art and artifacts and Spanish colonial painting to 19th- and early 20th-century American painting, sculpture, and decorative objects. The Museum is also home to the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art, which is dedicated to the study and exhibition of feminist art and is the only curatorial center of its kind. The Brooklyn Museum is both a leading cultural institution and a community museum dedicated to serving a wide-ranging audience. Located in the heart of Brooklyn, the Museum welcomes and celebrates the diversity of its home borough and city.

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