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IN THE LOOP

SPRING 2020

For our closest circle of friends







AUTRY MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN WEST 4700 Western Heritage Way Los Angeles, CA 90027-1462



DEAR FRIENDS

I write to you in late March 2020, in the midst of the coronavirus epidemic, and my message to you is necessarily bittersweet. Thanks to your continuing generosity, I am happy to say that we are confident about both the present as well as the path forward. I hope that by the time you read this the situation in Los Angeles and

beyond has improved further and this is all somewhat "old news," but I thought it prudent to give you a bit of an update about where we stand today, as well as reflect on some of the happier times that rang in the new year.

Along with other museums and cultural institutions, and for the safety of the public, our staff, and volunteers, we made the decision in mid-March to close temporarily to visitors, as well as to cease work on upcoming exhibitions and programs. We are currently paying all staff, including hourly staff, their normal salaries. Hourly staff who are required to show up to work by dint of their job functions—including security, facilities, and collections conservation personnel—are being paid time-and-a-half.

We are able to take this step due to your continuing pledges to support the Autry during this time, and thus I cannot underscore enough the appreciation the Autry staff, including myself, have for your contributions made in the past, present,

and future. Thanks to you, we are also able to bring more of the museum online—kicked off with a popular Instagram Live video walkthrough of the *Masters* exhibition, now archived on our YouTube channel. Stay tuned for more digital activities and initiatives as we seek to bring the museum experience to those at home. We have received countless e-mails and social media messages about how much people miss the Autry, especially during this challenging time, and we want to do all we can to continue serving the public.

This issue of *In the Loop* features a donor profile of Sandy and David Berman as well as some pleasant memories from earlier in the year, particularly our very successful *Masters Art Exhibition and Sale*. Highlights include the amazing artists' salon hosted by Gayle Garner Roski and Ed Roski at their beautiful home and studio in Toluca Lake; a tour of the Jonathan Club; artist talks (archived on our website) by Billy Schenck and Kim Wiggins; a successful art sale; and a festive after-sale soirée.

I hope you, your family, and friends are all healthy and well, and I hope the profile and the event photos herein brighten your day. Please stay tuned to the Autry website and social media channels for more brightness. We will all get through the coming days together, and hopefully be stronger for it.

President and CEO

AN INTIMATE EVENING WITH UNITED STATES POET LAUREATE JOY HARJO



AN INTIMATE EVENING WITH UNITED STATES POET LAUREATE JOY HARJO January 16, 2020

















MASTERS ARTISTS' SALON

Hosted by Gayle and Edward Roski - January 25, 2020



MASTERS ARTISTS' DAY TOUR AND LUNCHEON

Jonathan Club - February 7, 2020





MASTERS ARTISTS' DINNER AND EXHIBITION PREVIEW

February 7, 2020



MASTERS ARTISTS' PRESENTATIONS AND LUNCHEON

February 8, 2020



MASTERS SALE AND AFTER-SALE SOIRÉE

February 8, 2020











MASTERS SALE AND AFTER-SALE SOIRÉE

BEAU ALEXANDER, LORENA CHAVEZ



MARY BETH WEST, ILEANA CALTADO, RICK WEST, VALERIE FOSTER HOFFMAN, JENNY DAVIDSON-GOLDBRONN, JOHN CALTADO

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: SANDY AND DAVID BERMAN



For new Masters of the American West® Art Exhibition and Sale sponsors Sandy and David Berman, Western art is a family affair, an unexpected passion inspired by beautiful environs—and one that started off as a bond between David and his brother Mike.

Sandy and David, both retired entertainment executives, have been married for 47 years and are proud parents of two children and two grandchildren. A Harvard Law School graduate, David never imagined he would become an avid Western art collector—nor did Sandy, who grew up in Beverly Hills.

Their pivot to Western art had everything to do with Mike, and the fated day he won a fishing trip to Montana. Mike and his wife, Maureen, subsequently moved to that state. Starting in 1999, David and Sandy made annual treks from their home in Tarzana to visit Mike and Maureen, and, in 2006, they too built their Montana home. (Serendipitously, their first piece of Western artwork was an original movie poster of *Blue Montana Skies* featuring Gene Autry, which still hangs in their entryway.)

Mike introduced David to the genre in 2007, and from there they attended Western art shows across the region. Ultimately, they came to be known as the Berman Brothers. "I loved the whole experience . . . meeting the artists, making friends," recounted David fondly.

Sandy also came to love Western art along with Native American art and jewelry, and she appreciated how the art community was central to their Montana social life. "Most of all," Sandy shared, "I was happy that David could connect with his brother in such a meaningful way."

Tragically, Mike was killed in a car accident in 2014. Among family and friends at his memorial were many of the artists he had supported as an art collector. Artist Tom Gilleon convinced David to continue his love of Western art in his brother's stead. David eventually broadened his collection to include such artists as Kevin Red Star, Logan Maxwell Hagege, Mark Maggiori, Krystii Melaine, John Moyers, and Dean Mitchell.

Sandy and David's first *Masters* at the Autry was in 2008. David has attended every year since, along with museum visits to fan his childhood passion for the American West. This year, Sandy and David sponsored Billy Schenck's artist talk at *Masters* because of their long-standing friendship with Billy, their passion for Western art—and Billy's work in particular, and their growing engagement with the Autry.



The Bermans were thrilled to learn that the *Masters of the American West® Art Exhibition and Sale*, including their sponsorship, helps fund the Autry's dynamic education programs. Education is a priority in their lives, as parents, grandparents, and advocates of learning that stresses inclusivity, diversity, and openness. They appreciate the Autry's educational initiatives that inspire deliberative discourse, critical thinking, and active listening, and foster civically engaged students.

Philanthropy is a priority for the Bermans in general. They are grateful for all that they have, and for their ability to share—supporting various arts and cultural institutions, schools, and health organizations. They love seeing the direct impact of their giving.

David and Sandy look forward to getting more involved at the Autry beyond *Masters*. They are particularly excited about the future Family Play Gallery, which will serve as a destination for intergenerational play and learning that will transform the Autry campus for future generations.

We at the Autry are most grateful to them for their warmth and generosity, especially during this challenging time. Thank you, Sandy and David.