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Contact: Nancy Lee, Manager, Public Relations, 310-443-7016, nlee@hammer.ucla.edu

THE HAMMER MUSEUM ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF *MADE IN L.A. 2014* MOHN AWARDS



Los Angeles— The Hammer Museum announces the recipients of the three *Made in L.A. 2014* Mohn awards. Alice Könitz, creator of **The Los Angeles Museum of Art**, receives the \$100,000 **Mohn Award** honoring artistic excellence; **Magdalena Suarez Frimkess and Michael Frimkess** receive the \$25,000 **Career Achievement Award** honoring brilliance and resilience; and **Jennifer Moon** receives the \$25,000 **Public Recognition Award** determined by public vote. A jury of professional curators selected the Mohn Award and the Career Achievement Award while the Public Recognition Award was determined through a public vote through on-site voting from June 14-August 17. This year there was a total of 6,604 votes, over three times the amount of votes cast in 2012. All three awards are funded through the generosity of Los Angeles philanthropists and art collectors Jarl and Pamela Mohn in conjunction with *Made in L.A. 2014*, the Hammer's biennial exhibition series highlighting emerging and under-recognized artists from the Los Angeles region on view through September 7.

The jury wrote the following about their choices.

Los Angeles Museum of Art

In a biennial of exceptional artwork, Alice Könitz's Los Angeles Museum of Art stands out as exemplary of an artistic practice that not only affects other artists through collaboration, but enriches the art community through questioning the purpose and role of a museum. In addition to the elegantly designed, sculptural display systems and the well-selected artworks that they house, we believe that Könitz's practice is timely and deserves recognition. As the art market increasingly dominates the contemporary art world, artists such as Könitz are inventing new ways of operating and creating their own contexts. We hope that the award will go toward expanding the project and supporting more artists.

Magdalena Suarez Frimkess and Michael Frimkess

We wanted to recognize Magdalena Suarez Frimkess and Michael Frimkess for their many years of collaborative ceramic work. Though they have been working under the radar for much of that time, their work and artistic longevity have been an inspiration to younger artists. This award proves that persistence and belief in art-making is a worthy pursuit.

Made in L.A. 2014 highlighted a number of collective groups and artists whose way of working initiates networks of practice and discourse throughout the city. Among international art centers, Los Angeles is

Image captions: *Made in L.A. 2014*. Works by Los Angeles Museum of Art. Installation view at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles. June 15-September 7, 2014. Photography by Brian Forrest; *Made in L.A. 2014*. Works by Magdalena Suarez Frimkess and Michael Frimkess. Installation view at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles. June 15-September 7, 2014. Photography by Brian Forrest; *Made in L.A. 2014*. Works by Jennifer Moon. Installation view at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles. June 15-September 7, 2014. Photography by Brian Forrest.

characterized by artists creating community. “These deserving artists capture the vibrancy and diversity of what is happening in Los Angeles today – from the inventive Los Angeles Museum of Art, a collaboration initiated by Alice Könitz, to the captivating and delightful ceramics of Magdalena and Michael Frimkess, to the hands-down crowd favorite Jennifer Moon,” remarks Hammer Director Annie Philbin. “I am ever grateful to Jarl and Pamela Mohn who are the quintessential boosters and celebrators of L.A. artists across multiple disciplines and generations.”

THE MOHN AWARD | Jury award honoring artistic excellence

The Los Angeles Museum of Art (LAMO) is a combined artist’s project and experimental exhibition venue with three sculptural systems designed specifically to showcase Könitz’s own collection as well as borrowed and commissioned artworks. LAMO represents a significant trend among artists in Los Angeles and beyond that bucks an increasingly market-driven art world in favor of collaborative, critically engaged work. The Mohn Award will be granted over two years to Könitz and will be accompanied by the publication of a monograph about her work that will be distributed to key influential international curators, critics, gallerists, museums, and collectors.

CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD | Jury award honoring brilliance and resilience

Magdalena Suarez Frimkess and Michael Frimkess have been working together since 1963. Michael obsessively pursues the art of throwing traditional pottery while Magdalena paints the surfaces of the pots with her elaborate glazed compositions. Their fifty-year body of collaborative work engages many genres—pottery, outsider art, mythology, pop—all of which fail to quantify its beautiful urgency and unique renewal of the ceramic tradition.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION AWARD | Awarded by public vote

Jennifer Moon blends political theory, self-help, and fantasy to create the Revolution, a movement that envisions a worldwide shift in thinking through love, presence of mind, and empowerment. Through performance, video, writing and sculpture, Moon shares and disseminates her unconventional perspective.

JURY

- **Jack Bankowsky**, *Artforum* editor-at-large, independent curator, and art critic
- **Naomi Beckwith**, the Marilyn and Larry Fields Curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago
- **Apsara DiQuinzio**, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art and Phyllis C. Wattis MATRIX Curator at the University of California, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive

ABOUT JARL MOHN

Jarl and Pamela Mohn are art collectors committed to supporting emerging L.A. artists. Jarl Mohn is the President and CEO of NPR and has been corporate director and advisor to a number of media companies, making direct early stage angel and seed investments in digital media/technology ventures, and managing The Mohn Family Foundation—the philanthropic entity that he and his wife created in 2000. In addition to supporting arts initiatives, the Mohn Family Foundation funded the Mohn Broadcast Center for KPCC, a significant contribution to Public Radio in Southern California. Mohn is the former Chair of the ACLU Foundation of Southern California, and the former Chair of The Annenberg School at USC.

Previously he was the founding President and CEO of Liberty Digital, a public company that invested in the internet and digital media. Prior to Liberty Digital, Mohn created E! Entertainment Television serving

as its President and CEO from January 1990 to December 1998. Mohn was formerly Executive Vice President and General Manager of MTV and VH1 from 1986 to 1990 where he led the transformation from music videos to long form programming. Prior to his career in television, Mohn had a 19-year career in radio. He began as a disc jockey and rose through the ranks as a programmer, general manager, and then owner of a group of radio stations.

Originally from Doylestown, Pennsylvania, Mohn attended Philadelphia's Temple University where he studied mathematics and philosophy. He currently lives in Brentwood with his wife. Jarl and Pamela Mohn's commitment to the awards extends through the first five cycles of *Made in L.A.* with the option to continue beyond.

ABOUT THE HAMMER MUSEUM

The Hammer Museum—a public arts unit of the University of California, Los Angeles—is dedicated to exploring the diversity of artistic expression through the ages. Its collections, exhibitions, and programs span the classic to the cutting-edge in art, architecture, and design, recognizing that artists play a crucial role in all aspects of culture and society.

The museum houses the Armand Hammer Collection of old master, impressionist, and postimpressionist paintings and the Armand Hammer Daumier and Contemporaries Collection. The museum also houses the Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts—comprising more than 45,000 prints, drawings, photographs, and artists' books from the Renaissance to the present—and oversees the management of the Franklin D. Murphy Sculpture Garden on the UCLA campus. The Hammer's newest collection, the Hammer Contemporary Collection, is highlighted by works by artists such as Lari Pittman, Kara Walker, Ed Ruscha, Barbara Kruger, Mark Bradford, Richard Hawkins, and Llyn Foulkes, among many others.

The Hammer presents major single-artist and thematic exhibitions of historical and contemporary art. It also presents approximately ten Hammer Projects exhibitions each year, providing international and local artists with a laboratory-like environment to create new work or to present existing work in a new context.

As a cultural center, the Hammer offers a diverse array of free public programs throughout the year, including lectures, readings, symposia, film screenings, and music performances. These widely acclaimed public programs are presented in the Hammer's Billy Wilder Theater, which is also the home of the UCLA Film & Television Archive's renowned cinemathèque.

HAMMER MUSEUM INFORMATION

Visit www.hammer.ucla.edu or call **310-443-7000** for current exhibition and program information.

ADMISSION TO ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Hours: Tuesday–Friday 11am–8pm; Saturday & Sunday 11am–5pm. Closed Mondays, July 4, Thanksgiving, December 24, 25, 31, and January 1.

Location/Parking: The Hammer is located at 10899 Wilshire Boulevard in Westwood Village, three blocks east of the 405 Freeway's Wilshire exit. Parking is available under the Museum. Rate is \$3 for three hours with Museum validation. Bicycles park free and the Hammer is easily accessible via [public transportation](#).

Tours: For group tour reservations and information, call 310-443-7041.