2020
VIRTUAL SPRING GALA
MAKE MAGIC
Visual Arts Center of New Jersey
Congratulations
to the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey
for its continued excellence in exhibitions

Also a special thank you to my parents
Joyce and (the late) Bob Lenkeit
and
Rodney and Elizabeth Bell

whose love and support have helped make
all things possible

Patricia Bell
Dear Gala Guests,

Welcome to our Annual Spring Gala: Make Magic! Thank you for joining us virtually to celebrate contemporary art and support a true cultural gem in our community! The gala is the Art Center’s largest and single most important fundraising event of the year. The funds we raise tonight will support numerous educational and outreach programs, including:

- Funding Studio School scholarships for children from families of limited means, enabling them to attend after-school arts enrichment classes.
- Bringing middle- and high-school students from Elizabeth, NJ, to the Art Center for intensive art education and arts enrichment, benefitting more than 500 children each year. Over 50% of these students report that this is the first visit they have ever made to an art museum.
- Serving diverse members of our community, including CALTA21, The Connection, SAGE, and New Jersey’s Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Through these partnerships, we engage with children from low income households, individuals with disabilities, seniors experiencing cognitive and memory challenges, veterans being treated in New Jersey-based facilities, and immigrant English language learners.
- Offering the best in contemporary art to our local community and throughout New Jersey!

Please plan to participate in our online auction! You’ll see exceptional works donated by skilled artists who are friends of the Art Center and have the opportunity to support the Art Center philanthropically. Your generosity will truly make a difference!

Finally, we invite you to become an ambassador for the Art Center by bringing family, friends, and colleagues here to see our exhibitions; attending our unique events such as Art to Table and curator-led road trips; and participating in Studio School classes, camps, and workshops. Thank you again and remember, great art is only a bid away!

With gratitude,
Kate Buchanan & Anne Grissinger
Co-Chairs, Make Magic
This year’s art auction is online!
Instructions for creating a 32Auctions account can be found on page 5.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

IMPORTANT INFORMATION
• All items are sold “as is.”
• Items must be paid in full.
• In the event of a dispute, the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey shall have sole and final discretion to determine the winning bid.
• Upon special request, we may share your contact information with the artist of the work you purchased.

EXACT BID vs. PROXY BID
• When you are ready to bid on an item, you will notice you have a choice to bid an exact amount or place a proxy bid. An exact bid is exactly the dollar amount you wish to bid at that moment. If someone outbids you, you can go back and place another bid. A proxy bid is a maximum bid which allows the program to raise your bid by the minimum bid amount to remain the winner, up to the dollar amount you place as your limit.
• If you are outbid, you will receive an email notification that will include a link back to the item on which you are bidding.

AUCTION ITEM PICK-UP
• You will be automatically charged for any items you won through the 32 Auctions website. The Art Center will arrange pickup with each individual auction winner.
Joe and Marité Robinson are delighted to support the vision and mission of the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey.

**Vision**
To create an inclusive and welcoming community where lives are transformed and enriched through the shared experience of art.

**Mission**
The Visual Arts Center of New Jersey nurtures the capacity for personal expression, expands the creative experience, and fosters stronger communities by empowering people to see, make, and learn about art. Through exhibition, Studio School, and community programs, the Art Center engenders connection, curiosity, and creative risk-taking among its constituents.
CREATING YOUR MOBILE ACCOUNT

1. Go to 32auctions.com/MakeMagic2020

2. Scroll down and click view all items.

3. Click on any item to show a link to create an account.

4. Fill out fields.

5. Check email for verification.

6. Click the link in your email back to the auction to verify your account.

7. Start your bidding!

NOTE: If you’ve forgotten your account info, 32auctions will provide you with recovery information.
Congratulations to our friend Pat Bell for this much-deserved recognition of your passion for artists and art, and to the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey, a community where lives are enriched and transformed by the shared experience of art.

Audrey and Zygi Wilf
Jane and Mark Wilf
Tonight’s art auction features works of art created by many talented artists. Some have exhibited at the Art Center in the past or are part of our wonderful faculty, and others are friends from throughout the art world.

We thank all of the dedicated artists who have donated their work to support our exhibitions and programs. Their generosity enables the Art Center to continue its vision of creating an inclusive and welcoming community where lives are transformed and enriched through the shared experience of art.
PATRICIA A. BELL,
YOU BRING MAGIC TO ALL YOU DO.

CONGRATULATIONS.
WE LOVE YOU!

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Spend an afternoon learning to mix a variety of cocktails and then enjoy your drinks and a delicious Summit House lunch for ten!

Summit House offers elegant cuisine inspired by the Garden State’s diverse edible bounty—served with care in a warm, lively atmosphere. Sourced from local farms, fisherman, and select purveyors, the Summit House menu features a raw bar specializing in East Coast oysters, peak-season vegetables, and humanely raised meats. With an extensive seasonal craft cocktail program, the bar serves locally brewed beers as well as old- and new-world wines with a focus on biodynamic and organic farming practices.

Summit House is proud to support the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey and to partner in their vision of creating an inclusive and welcoming community where lives are transformed and enriched through the shared experience of art.

*Mutually agreed date and two-week advanced reservations required.

Please email events@summithousenj.com to book.
We are proud to support the
Visual Arts Center of New Jersey’s
Spring 2020 Gala

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**The Horologist’s Magical Craft, 2020**  
**Egg tempera on panel**  
**24 x 36 in.**  
**Current market value: $8,000**

This painting depicts a mechanical galleon that artist Yvette Molina saw at the British Museum several years ago. The extravagant ship-shaped table ornament in gilded brass is an automaton that would have been wound like a music box to produce movement and sound. The device also incorporates elaborate clockwork. Molina’s choice of the word “craft” in the title is a word play—a nod to the fact that the image is a boat, but also referring to the extraordinary skill of early clock makers, or horologists. She explains: “Many automatons were made by clockmakers. This was made by goldsmith and clockmaker Hans Schlottheim—and it stopped me in my tracks!”

Intrigued by the idea that clockwork would have been regarded as “magic” in the 16th century, Molina shares, “I find it thrilling how knowledge often feels magical. We all hold different types of knowing and it is in the sharing that we get to experience the wonderful variety that is life!”

Yvette Molina’s art examines the human drive towards discovery, meaning-making, and connection through the dual lens of science and mysticism. She has exhibited across the US and internationally in galleries from Los Angeles and New York to Reykjavik, and at venues such as the American Embassy in Montevideo, Uruguay, the Contemporary Museum, Honolulu, Hawai’i, and the Legion of Honor and de Young Museums in San Francisco, CA. Her work is in numerous public and private collections. Born in Kansas City, her early education includes the Institute of Art and Design, Norfolk, England, and Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Angers, France. In 2014 she undertook the study of traditional egg tempera painting, gilding, and orthodox icon techniques.

*The Horologist’s Magical Craft* is currently on view at the VACNJ in Molina’s exhibition, *Big Bang Votive*, an interactive storytelling project in which the artist paints representative objects onto paintings of the starry universe. The winning bidder will receive the painting at the conclusion of the exhibition in June.
ARTWORK BY HILDUR ÁSGEIRSDÓTTIR JÓNSSON

Strata #6, 2012
Silk and dyes
47 x 21 in.
Current market value: $7,000

Hildur Ásgeirsdóttir Jónsson is a painter and textile artist who uses silk and dye in a hybrid process that merges painting and weaving. In the mid-1990s she developed a technique of painting the warp and weft threads separately before weaving them together on the loom. Like all of her work, Strata #6 originates in her travels across the landscape of her native Iceland. Her intention is to convey the sense of wonder and awe that one feels in a vast and untouched landscape.

She begins by taking photographs in remote parts of Iceland, focusing not on the vista, but on the forms and shapes underlying the natural formations. Back in her studio in Ohio, she enlarges the images and reworks them into the desired composition. She explains, “Once these sketches have been made, I put the photograph away because I want the work to be about the memory of the place, rather than a representation of it. It is working from this second-generation image that I develop the drawing’s color and forms. My pieces are contemporary in their imagery and technique, but also follow hundreds of years of tradition in tapestry making.”

Hildur Ásgeirsdóttir Jónsson was born in Reykjavik, Iceland in 1963. She has a BFA and an MFA from Kent State University. Her work is in numerous public and private collections. Recent notable exhibitions include: Carl Solway Gallery, Cincinnati; the Tang Museum, Skidmore College; Reykjavik Art Museum, Iceland; and Museum of Contemporary Art, Cleveland. Her work was included in the recent Painted Threads exhibition at the Art Center. The artist has received numerous grants and commissions, including the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Award, Cleveland Arts Prize, Ohio Arts Council Grants, and public commissions from the Hilton Hotel Convention Center and the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. She lives and works in Reykjavik, Iceland, and Cleveland, Ohio.
**ARTWORK BY TOM NUSSBAUM**

**Red Fever, 2014**  
**Acrylic on paper and wire**  
**Diameter 24 in. diameter**  
**Current market value: $5,000**

Tom Nussbaum is known for drawings, paper cuts, prints, sculpture, children’s books, and site-specific commissions that explore connections between the human figure and forms found in nature, art, architecture, and technology. His intuitive and colorful works also reflect a life-long interest in creative practices outside the mainstream art world, such as folk art, sign painting, quilt making, indigenous architecture, and hand-made objects from around the world. *Red Fever* is a sculpture that functions as a kind of relief painting, hanging slightly off the wall and casting intriguing shadows.

Nussbaum’s formal exploration of color and form is also informed by the history of abstract art, as seen in his large public mural, *East Orange Boogie Woogie*. Completed in 2019 in East Orange, NJ, it directly references the 1943 Piet Mondrian painting, *Broadway Boogie Woogie*.

Nussbaum has exhibited throughout the US and internationally. Since 1987 he has completed over thirty site-specific commissions for a variety of public settings including public plazas, train stations, schools, hospitals, and environmental centers. Nussbaum has been a visiting artist and lecturer at colleges and universities, and has served on many peer review panels and juries. He has been awarded two New Jersey State Individual Artist Fellowships and is a three-time MacDowell Colony Fellow. Nussbaum’s work is found in numerous public and private collections including the Montclair Art Museum, NJ; Princeton Public Library, NJ; New Jersey Transit; Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centers; and Chase Manhattan Bank, among others. He works from his studios in East Orange, NJ, and Burlington Flats, NY.
Our heartfelt gratitude to the directors and staff of the Visual Arts Center who make the magic happen every day.

Congratulations on a successful year!

Fred & Debi Schwarzmann
Your Support: The Power of Philanthropy

Your financial support of the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey’s Make Magic Gala will help us to:

- Fund Studio School scholarships and camperships for children from families of limited means, enabling them to take after-school arts enrichment classes or attend summer camps.

- Bring middle and high school students from Elizabeth here for intensive art education and arts enrichment, impacting more than 500 individuals each year. Over 50% of those children report to us that this is the first visit they have ever made to an art museum.

- Enable us to work with social-service organizations and local groups to serve diverse audiences, including the NJ Seeds, SAGE, and New Jersey’s Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, and CALTA21. Through these partnerships, we can better and more fully serve children from low-income households, individuals with disabilities, seniors experiencing cognitive and memory issues, veterans being treated in New Jersey-based facilities, and immigrant English language learners.

- Help us continue our tradition of offering the best in contemporary art to not only Summit but all of New Jersey!

Thank You for your support!
Proudly supporting the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey. Congratulations to this year’s honorees: Patricia A. Bell and Patricia Lannes!

-Amy Knight

Proudly supporting the Art Center’s goal of bringing art and people together.

Diego Rotsztain & Isabel Ribeiro
ABOUT THE HONOREES

PATRICIA A. BELL

Patricia Bell is a Managing Director, Wealth Management, and Wealth Management Advisor with Merrill Lynch in the Short Hills, NJ, office. She joined Merrill Lynch as a financial consultant after graduating from the University of Colorado in 1980.

Pat and her team of three women currently manage $705 million in assets. Her business focuses on Extensive High Net Worth Wealth Management including, but not limited to, estate planning strategies, charitable giving, retirement planning, asset allocation, wealth transfer, and tax management. Pat was named to Barron’s Top 1200 Advisors for 2020 (for the fifth consecutive year), the 2020 Forbes Best-In-State Wealth Advisors, the Barron’s list of the Top 50 Financial Advisors in NJ (2006–2016), and the Barron’s list of Top 100 Women Financial Advisors (2005–2016). She has also been included in the 2008 list of New Jersey’s Best 50 Women in Business sponsored by NJBIZ and Barron’s list of Top 100 Financial Advisors in the US from 2004–2007. Pat was honored with the David Brady Award, Merrill Lynch’s highest national honor, for her outstanding philanthropy, client focus and overall commitment to her company and community. In addition, Pat has been featured on the cover of Garden State Woman Magazine and profiled in Park Place Magazine, the Star Ledger, and in the Barron’s July 1, 2017, article, “Keeping it Simple Pays Off for an Advisor and Her Clients.”

Pat has received many philanthropic awards, including an Advocate for the Arts Award from the Arts Council of NY, a Woman of Distinction Award from the Girl Scouts of America, a Garden State Woman of the Year Humanitarian Award, an Advocate for the Arts Award from Aljira, and the YWCA TWIN Award (Tribute to Women and Industry), which she received twice. She was honored by Arts Unbound in 2019. Pat has been a Trustee of Aljira, A Center for Contemporary Art in Newark; Visual Arts Center of New Jersey; Arts Unbound; Lydia Johnson Dance Company; The Inwood House in NYC; Woman’s Fund of NJ; The Montclair Art Museum; and Garden State Arts Foundation.

Pat is an enthusiastic and prolific collector of contemporary art, with a special interest in the work of female photographers. She also has an extensive wine collection.

ART CHANGEMAKER AWARD: PATRICIA LANNES

Patricia Lannes has worked in the fields of visual literacy and museum education for more than 20 years. She is the Founder and Director of CALTA21 (Cultures and Literacies through Art for the 21st Century) a model initiative originally funded by a National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS.) CALTA21 builds the capacity of art museums and community-based organizations and higher education partnerships to engage and empower adult English language learners by strengthening their academic, social, cultural and civic capital. It was identified by the Center for the Future of Museums, a division of the American Association of Museums, as a replicable and self-sustaining model that addresses national demographic trends, can have national impact, and can be used by other institutions for improving services and performance. Through her work with CALTA21, Lannes was nominated for the White House Champion of Change Award.
Best Wishes!
Sincerely,
Betse & Frank Gump
March 28, 2020
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We are grateful to be a part of the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey. You help us grow.

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We salute a fabulous friend of Our Visual Arts Center

PAT BELL

And are grateful for her many kindnesses over the years.

Sally and Tom Abbott
Thank You for your support!
Hooray for the MAGIC of art— in all its various guises! ~ Millie & Jack Cooper

CONGRATULATIONS

to The Visual Arts Center of New Jersey
Susan Pappianou, ACSR, SBCS, MLIS

March 28, 2020
ABOUT THE VISUAL ARTS CENTER OF NEW JERSEY

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH ART

The Visual Arts Center of New Jersey was founded by a small group of Summit artists in 1933, and has grown into one of the largest visual arts organizations in the state. Despite our growth, we have stayed true to the original vision of our founders—to provide people with the opportunity to learn about art from teaching artists, to view art through robust exhibitions, and to provide programming that supports lifelong learning through the arts. Since 1981, we have been an accredited museum with the American Alliance for Museums, one of only nine accredited museums in New Jersey. In 2016, the Art Center was again recognized as a Major Impact Organization by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

Every year more than 4,000 individuals of all ages and skill levels take classes and workshops through our Studio School program. For more than 25 years we have worked with community partners such as SAGE Eldercare to provide arts enrichment to a variety of under-served audiences including seniors, at-risk youth, low-income families, and adults with developmental disabilities. More than 1,000 school children from across northern and central New Jersey participate in our Gallery Education Tour Program. Roughly half of those students come through our partnership with the Elizabeth School District. And our we bring the best in contemporary art to New Jersey, as you can see in our current thought-provoking exhibitions: Hillerbrand + Magsamen: The Devices Project; Yvette Molina: Big Bang Votive; Elisabeth Smolarz: The Encyclopedia of Things; and Adrienne Wheeler: White Dress Narratives. We are grateful for your presence tonight and for your significant contribution in supporting all that the Art Center does. Welcome to the family!
To the staff and faculty at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO

Siobhan Creem

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We are thrilled to celebrate Patricia Bell’s contributions to the arts in New Jersey and beyond.

Pat, your longstanding support and dedication to the Art Center means the world to us!

With warmest regards,
The VACNJ Board of Trustees
Merrill is proud to support the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey’s 2020 Spring Gala.

Merrill Lynch Wealth Management
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