



Meet Executive Director Martin Betz

The CLMA board of directors is pleased to welcome Martin Betz as executive director. An experienced museum professional, Martin has returned to his Claremont roots to lead CLMA into its next phase of growth. Under his direction, working with Seth Pringle, associate director of exhibitions and collections, the recently expanded museum will strengthen its mission to provide quality exhibitions, programs, and connections to the broader community.

Martin immigrated to the United States from Germany in 1964. He is the son of world-renowned scholar and philosopher Hans Dieter Betz. From an early age, he had an interest in art. He became passionate about ceramics from his time at Claremont High School with artist Richard Martinez. After graduating from Cal State Fullerton, he went on to receive his MFA at Claremont Graduate University. His interest in exhibitions and performance events started a long career in museum work and concert production.

His first notable position was senior curator and exhibition department head at the Long Beach Museum of Art. In 2002 Martin and his wife, artist and curator Eszter Delgado, relocated to Hawaii with their young family of four where he served as director of the Hui No'eau Visual Arts Center. In 2007 he returned to the mainland to start the cultural arts division of the City of Temecula. After creating a 35-employee strong arts division and *(continued on back)*



“I am truly excited by this unique opportunity to give back to a community that was so influential to my outlook on the world. My experience growing up in Claremont was all art and music! My first live performance on the trumpet was at Sycamore School. My first alternative co-op gallery space “Garage 141” was on Oberlin Ave., and of course there was dA Center for the Arts in Pomona. These milestones are what led to a career in the arts that took me all over the US, and now I am able to share my insights and develop programs in my hometown. What an honor to be able to do this!”

— CLMA Executive Director
Martin Betz

CLMA CALENDAR

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events

Ferne Jacobs: A Personal World
Open through September 24

ARTStation Family Art Activities
Sunday, August 6, 12-4 pm

Fall Gala: Interwoven
Saturday, September 23, 5:30 pm

Face to Face: Ken Gonzales-Day
Opening Reception
Saturday, October 7, 6-9 pm

Padua Hills Art Fiesta
Sunday, November 5, 11 am- 4 pm

The Claremont Lewis Museum of Art is a non-profit, tax exempt 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Our exhibitions and programs are supported by public and private organizations as well as many individual donors, members, and volunteers.

Museum to Receive Major LA County Grants



The Museum board is pleased to announce that CLMA is the recipient of two substantial grants from the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture. We have been awarded \$17,000 from the Organizational Grant Program to support additional administrative staff and \$29,784 from the Creative Recovery LA initiative funded by the LA County Board of Supervisors through the Federal American Rescue

Plan Act which is designed to address pandemic impacts on the arts and the creative economy. The Museum will use these funds to augment existing Museum programs and provide additional community outreach.

Martin Betz *(continued from page 1)*

completing construction of a performing arts center he moved on to work as the director of cultural affairs for the City of Manhattan Beach.

Martin has a passion for motorsports and took on the challenge of directing the NHRA Motorsports Museum in Pomona through Covid era challenges. Before coming to CLMA, he served as the interim executive director of the Mendocino Art Center. He continues to collaborate with his wife consulting on projects by Single Tree Arts.

Find us at clmoa.org, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.



Celebrating the Connection of Art and Community

Save the date for our Fall Gala, “Interwoven: Arts, Creativity, and Community,” September 23, 2023. This year’s Gala is inspired by the remarkable fiber work by artist Ferne Jacobs, whose sculptural forms and ancient basket-making techniques remind us how art and community are entwined. The evening is also our opportunity to thank all the wonderful artists and donors who generously contribute and support the Museum. This year we honor the Calaycay Family, who have committed to naming our largest gallery in memory of Ligorio A. Calaycay, Jr., MD.

Our silent auction will be online one week in advance of the Gala through September 25. The silent and live auctions will include diverse art from Claremont’s legacy and local artists. More information on the silent auction and a link to the website will be forthcoming in early September. A spirited paddle auction is always a highlight of the evening, and supports fundraising efforts for Project ARTstART, our education program, now in its 12th year in the Claremont schools.



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Claremont Lewis Museum of Art

Martin Betz, Executive Director

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Jay T. and Deborah R. Last collection of ceramics by Harrison McIntosh

Recent Donations to CLMA Include the Last Collection of Ceramics by Harrison McIntosh

The Museum recently received a generous gift of the Jay T. and Deborah R. Last collection of 17 ceramic works by Harrison McIntosh. Other wonderful items have come from the families of artists Paul Darrow and Hildred Reents and from the estates of Sandy Baldonado and Gary Keith. We greatly appreciate these many gifts in support of CLMA. Many important works have been accepted into the Museum's permanent collection and we look forward to exhibiting them in the future.



Valerie Martinez Opens her Claraboya Home to CLMA Members

CLMA hosted our first Artful Evening since the pandemic and Museum members were excited to get back in the swing of things. More than 85 people enjoyed libations and hors d'oeuvres at the spacious Claraboya home of Valerie Martinez, featuring her extensive collection of regional and Chicano art.

Incoming Executive Director Martin Betz was introduced and had the pleasure of meeting many Museum members. Special thanks to Last Name Brewery for providing beer and to House of Pong for catering an array of Asian fusion foods. An opportunity drawing was held for two Paul Darrow drawings offered by the *Claremont Courier*.

We also want to thank our very special host committee: Valerie Martinez of VMA Communications Inc., Sheri Nagel, John & Karen Neuber, Maureen Cunningham of Epic Design Build Inc., Bernadette Kendall of Wheeler Steffen Sotheby's International Realty, and Ryan Zimmerman & Mason Prophet of Concierge Realty Group. These very generous sponsors contributed about \$6,000 collectively.

Special thanks to Christopher and Carol Oberg who pitched in a final donation to raise the total event proceeds to \$10,000 to fund future programming at the Museum. We greatly appreciate these many generous gifts in support of CLMA.



Project ARTstART

Making History, Creating Legacies

As we look back on Year Twelve of ARTstART, we celebrate the success of our teaching students, and feel hope for the future.

In the fall, one of the largest contingents of Claremont High students ever joined ARTstART. After visiting exhibitions and meeting artists, students learned Visual Thinking Strategies and ways to activate exhibitions through art responses - projects inspired by art seen during weekly Friday meetings. Starting in October, ARTstARTers were able to offer a full year of in-person AfterARTs sessions at all elementary schools led by Project Associate Maya Winnick. Maya also brings her infectious enthusiasm for art-making to ARTstation on first Sunday Free Family Days.

Over the winter, ARTstARTers met regularly to plan art lessons related to the CLMA exhibitions. They met with artists David Svensen, Vince Skelly, and the new El Roble Studio Arts teacher Jacque McElvy, to develop art-making ideas using social emotional learning to present at their pre-visit, museum-visit, and post-visit art lessons to 4-6 graders. Elementary students from Mountain View, Oakmont, Sumner/Danbury, Sycamore and Vista del Valle subsequently visited CLMA and created their own projects inspired by the works on view.

The year culminated with *StART It Up*, an exhibition of work by elementary students May 5-7. In a first for the program, CLMA celebrated student artists of all ages by exhibiting *Anthem of the Teenage Artist*, a companion show of Missy Wonacott's Claremont High International Baccalaureate Studio Art students. ARTstART seniors Maliha Siddiqi and Joanna 'JoJo' Wren had their art featured in the gallery next door to work of the elementary students they'd taught.

In another first for the program, JoJo and fellow CHS senior Ava Noland (both IB students!) plan to room together at New York University in the fall of 2023, bringing their love of art and teaching to the Big Apple, and creating the first recorded instance of ARTstARTer roommates. "In my freshman year," notes Ava, "I joined ... because I was drawn to the idea of making art more accessible to children in schools with underfunded art departments." She stayed

involved for four years "... to visit a broad range of art museums, try out new art techniques, and meet other artists for free."

"I love art, whether it is making it myself or sharing it with others. ARTstART allows me to work with kids and help their creativity shine, which is so fun and important." – JoJo Wren

In another bittersweet first, this is the first year that all our Project Assistants - Leila Cano, Camille Forte, Josie Foster, Samantha Quach, and Jasmine Sloan, graduated from their respective colleges - we wish them well and salute them for their work mentoring ARTstARTers over these last few years.

– Rich Deely, Project ARTstART Director

ARTstART BY THE NUMBERS

In 2022-23 ARTstART engaged with and served:

- 6** college students from five colleges
- 77** Claremont High School students
- 865** elementary students from five Claremont schools
- 1,148** elementary students from seven schools attended AfterARTs workshops

Partners and Supporters

Project ARTstART is produced solely by the Claremont Lewis Museum of Art in partnership with the Claremont Unified School District (CUSD) and provides programming for students from eight participating schools: Chaparral, Condit, Mountain View, Oakmont, Sumner, Sycamore, and Vista del Valle elementary schools, along with Claremont High School.

The program is funded by generous donations from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture; Ruth & Joseph C. Reed Foundation for the Arts; Claremont Kiwanis; Scripps Fine Arts Foundation; Claremont Rotary, as well as CLMA Board members and many dedicated community donors. Additional in-kind support and partner programming provided by American Museum of Ceramic Art, Benton Museum of Art at Pomona College, Claremont Heritage, Claremont Unified School District, dA Center for the Arts, Ruth Chandler Williamson Gallery at Scripps College, Susan Sontag Center for Creative Collaborations 'The HIVE.'