

Martin Maudal, *The Bullfrog 12*
(A hybrid electric 12-string
resonator guitar), 2024. California
bay laurel, koa, bloodwood &
ebony woods, metal.



Look What's Coming to the Museum this Year!

The Claremont Lewis Museum of Art is pleased to present four new exhibitions this year. We will explore the art of instrument making, the intersection of language and art, and the themes of color and abstraction. Additionally, the popular *Free 4 All* pop-up show will return showcasing local artists. We extend our gratitude to all the donors and sponsors who contributed to the Museum, as your support makes these exhibitions possible. We encourage you to visit the Museum regularly to discover new exhibits and exciting programs throughout the year.





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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.

Upcoming Exhibitions

Sound Formations: Artist, Musician, Instrument Maker

April 5 – July 13, 2025



Sound Formations is a group exhibition showcasing beautifully handcrafted musical instruments that can also be appreciated as works of art. Claremont has a rich and unique history of musicians and instrument makers, and local artists continue to create instruments in their workshops and studios, catering to musicians who value handcrafted pieces over mass-produced items. The exhibition is sponsored in part by Alpha Structural.

Claremont has made a significant impact on the music world. While this exhibition focuses on instruments and their makers, it also recognizes the important contributions of the many resident musicians and important landmarks, including the Folk Music Center, established by Charles and Dorothy Chase in 1958, and the Golden Ring music café which opened in 1965. For many years, Claremont's live music culture thrived, largely due to the annual Folk Festival and the numerous live music venues in the area.

Sound Formations is guest curated by Mike Kotzen and Martin Maudal and will include the works of Henry Barnes, Richard Barnes, Otto D'Ambrosio, David Dart, Kris Erickson, Pete Escovedo, Steve Goode, Mike Kotzen, Martin Maudal, Father Bill Moore, Brian Ransom, Jom Rivers, Victoria Rosas, Warren Shingleton, Dave Tourje, and Larry White.

Photos by Thea Whitaker

Los Angeles
County
**Arts &
Culture**

The Claremont Lewis Museum of Art is supported by the LA County Department of Arts and Culture as part of Creative Recovery LA, an initiative funded by the American Rescue Plan.

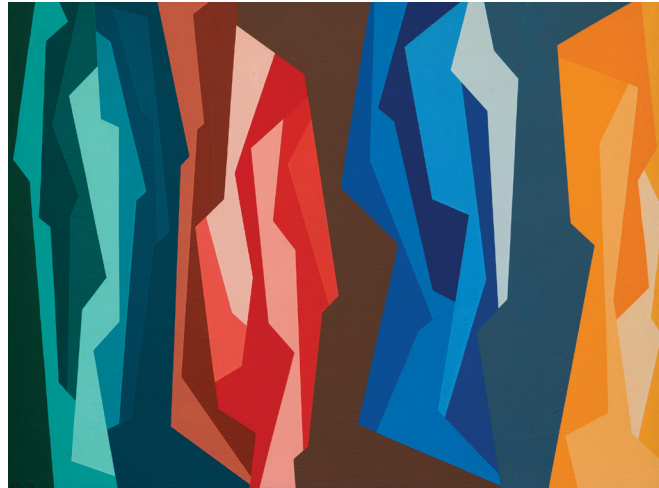
**FREE
4 ALL**

Free 4 All July 19, 2025

Artists from Claremont and beyond will take over the Museum for this annual one-day pop-up show from 4-9 pm. With no fees to exhibit and no gatekeepers to decide who is allowed to show their work, hundreds of artists will fill the Museum's galleries with their work. *Free 4 All* is a commitment to unfiltered community building.

Join us in celebrating the amazing cultural bounty that surrounds us with free admission to the Museum, refreshments available and live music.

Complications in Color August 2 – November 16, 2025



Karl Benjamin, *Crystalization*, 1959. Oil on canvas, Collection of the Claremont Lewis Museum of Art

reinterpret abstract objects, linking them to feminist ideas. This approach complicates the traditional, male-dominated history of hard-edge abstract painting.

Sculptor Terry O'Shea also expands the meaning of abstraction by incorporating lozenge-like shapes in his work. While these forms are rooted in the formalism of the light and space movement, they also hint at the effects of pharmaceuticals and hallucinogens.

The exhibition will also feature works by Florence Arnold, Karl Benjamin, and June Harwood, further exploring the layered meanings within abstraction.

This exhibition, *Complications in Color*, highlights the beauty of abstract art while revealing its deeper complexities. Traditionally, abstract art has been discussed in terms of pure form, often overlooking its psychological and political dimensions.

Artist Rachel Lachowicz challenges this view by using gendered materials and appropriation to

She Opens the Door: Women Artists and Writers Shape Language and Space December 6, 2025 – March 22, 2026



Elana Mann, Installation view of *Sounds from the Swamp*, 2020, Lawndale Art Center, Houston, TX. Photo by N. Baker.

Curated by Poet-in-Residence Chloe Martinez, *She Opens the Door* is a group exhibition featuring contemporary female artists who explore agency at the intersection of language and art. The show includes artists from Claremont and the broader Southern California region.

In addition to selecting artworks, Martinez will contribute her own poetry and writing to complement the exhibition, while also inviting other creative writers to participate. The exhibition is supported in part by the Pasadena Art Alliance.

Language is a powerful tool for understanding and expressing female autonomy within patriarchal structures. As James Baldwin famously said, "... the root function of language is to control the world by describing it." Beyond written words, visual art also serves as a form of language—shaping how we think, perceive, and assert our place in the world.



MUSEUM DEVELOPMENT

580 Members
215 Donors
7 Grants awarded
43% Increase in staff hours
400 Volunteer hours
15 Artworks added to collection



ARTstART EDUCATION PROGRAM

129 High school participants
1,623 Elementary participants
28 Training sessions
19 Museum visits
44 Classroom visits
56 AfterARTs sessions
4,450 Total attendance



EXHIBITIONS & PROGRAMS

7 Exhibitions
11,115 Visitors
2,948 YouTube Video views
6,406 Social media followers
20,398 Website visitors



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The Power of Art

The Claremont Lewis Museum of Art is dedicated to showcasing the power of art and amplifying the voices that shape today's creative landscape. In 2024, the Museum experienced a breakthrough year, featuring five thought-provoking exhibitions organized by the Director of Exhibitions and Collections Seth Pringle. These exhibitions included *Face to Face: Ken Gonzales-Day*, *This is not a chair.*, *The Great Perfection: Charles Long & Khang Bảo Nguyễn*, and *Phil Dike: A Bird's Eye View*. As a result of these efforts, museum attendance increased by 25% and membership climbed to an all-time high.

CLMA is more than just a museum; it serves as a platform for dialogue, exploration, and discovery. We believe that art has the power

to challenge perspectives, inspire change, and connect communities. Through dynamic exhibitions, collaborations with artists, and thought-provoking programs such as *Art Night Out*, *Free 4 All*, and Project ARTstART, we strive to create an inclusive space where everyone—whether an artist, a student, or a first-time visitor—feels a sense of belonging.

As a small museum, we take pride in our flexibility, willingness to take risks, and ability to respond quickly to the world around us. For example, a significant grant from the Perenchio Foundation will allow us to extend our hours and enhance our programming starting on April 5. Thanks to the generous support of our patrons, we were able to dedicate the Phil Dike Gallery in honor of one of Claremont's most celebrated artists.

Thanks to all our supporters for being part of our journey. See you at the Museum! – *Martin Betz*, Executive Director

Richard Watkins Joins CLMA Board



The Claremont Lewis Museum of Art is very excited to welcome its latest board member, Richard Watkins!

Rich is a Claremont resident with a long resume working in

development and fundraising for numerous universities, including both Pomona College and Claremont McKenna College. Most recently he served on the board of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association, where he led their philanthropy efforts and other fundraising campaigns.

CLMA is excited to put his skills to work for us on our own development committee. Rich has been a member of the Museum, and participated in many of our exhibitions and events, but is now excited to be involved with all the amazing things we have in store for the future as an invaluable member of the board. We all couldn't be more thrilled to have him join us!

ARTstART Welcomes Project Associate McKenna Wood



Like several of her predecessors, this year's Project Associate, McKenna Wood has a connection to ARTstART, now in its 14th year of operation. An alumna of Project

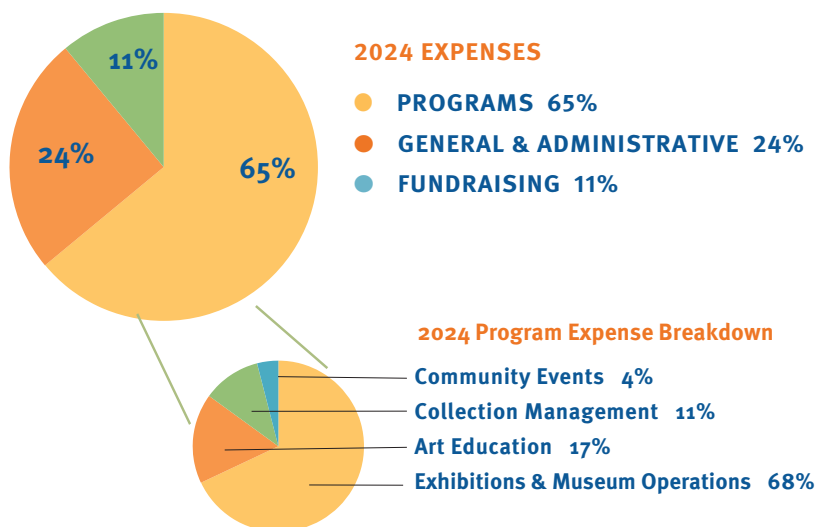
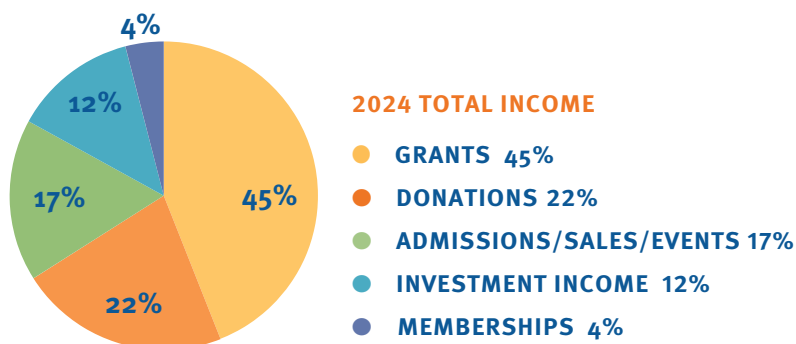
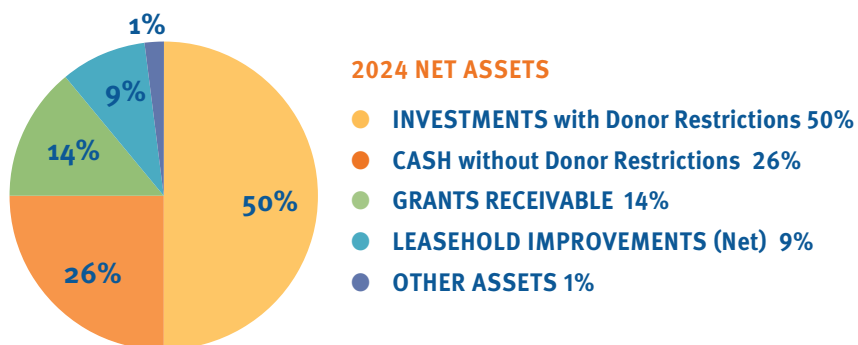
ARTstART, McKenna participated as a Claremont high school student volunteer before attending college at University of California, Santa Barbara.

An artist who first discovered her passion for teaching art while working with underserved students at Sumner/Danbury School in Claremont during the Covid era, McKenna works as a Kumon Center tutor and manages the AfterARTS series at all seven CUSD school sites.

2024 TREASURER'S REPORT

A Record Revenue Year

Revenue for 2024 was just shy of a million dollars at \$983,000, the strongest revenue year in over a decade. A three year grant from the Perenchio Foundation, strong endowment investment returns and continued generosity from our members and donors is allowing the Museum, in 2025, to increase staff, extend Museum hours and continue to expand programming. 2024 expenses were \$627,000 and net income was \$356,000. Net Assets increased to \$1,958,000*. – Rae Rottman, Treasurer



*numbers are preliminary

Fun with Piñatas at Art Nights Out

Our January Art Night Out brought together 15 painting enthusiasts to enjoy good conversation, good wine and good beer. Artists took home their unique masterpiece! In February, the artists of Piñata Design Studio led guests in making heart-shaped piñatas.



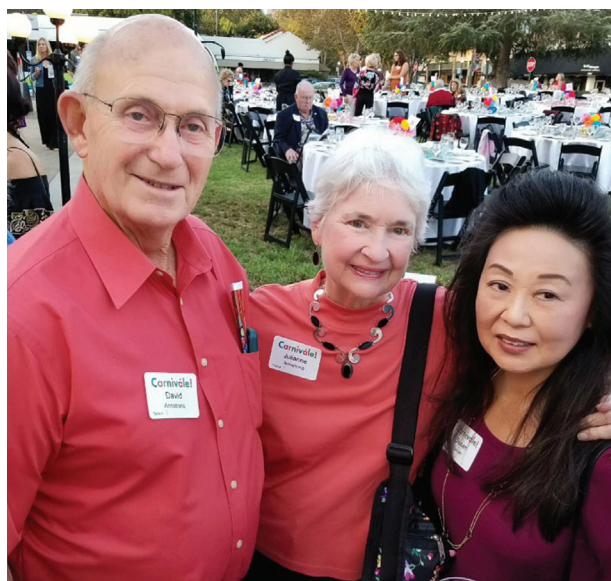
Photos by Xochilt Vargas.



MARCH ART NIGHT OUT: All Wrapped UP!

Join us for a fun and creative evening on Thursday, March 20, at 6 pm at the Museum. In this workshop, we'll learn from exhibition artist Tan Jazz Mont how to wrap an object with plaster bandages, and then decoratively paint the exterior, resulting in a unique wrapped readymade sculpture. Let your imagination run wild as you wrap, shape, and paint your very own masterpiece.

No experience necessary, just bring your creativity! All materials as well as refreshments including wine and beer from proud business partners Claremont Craft Ales provided. This is a 21+ event. Get tickets at <https://CLMOA-all-wrapped-up.eventbrite.com>.



1940-2025

In Appreciation of David Armstrong Founder of AMOCA and Supporter of CLMA

David Armstrong, founder of the American Museum of Ceramic Art, passed away on January 7. A Pomona College and CGU graduate, he was a dedicated supporter of ceramic art and local artists.

Beyond AMOCA, he played a key role in developing the Claremont Museum of Art (now the Claremont Lewis Museum of Art), offering guidance, storage, and fundraising support. The Claremont Lewis Museum of Art honors his generosity and leadership.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Armstrong Fund at AMOCA.

David and Julianne Armstrong with Susan Sasaki attend the 2017 CMA gala.
Photo by Reine Bouret.

Home in Aztlán Opening Was a Joyful Celebration of Chicanx Art



Over 400 people attended the opening reception of *Home in Aztlán: The Garcia Collection of Chicanx Art* in December. The exhibition showcases artwork from the collection of Frank & Cathy Garcia, which includes some of the most important chicanx artists of the last 50 years and the companion exhibition *One of Your Girls or Your Homies: Tan Jazz Mont*.

Many of the artists attended including David Botello, Margaret Garcia, Sandy Garcia, David Flury, Jaime “Germs” Zacarias, and Tan Jazz Mont.

Home in Aztlán is sponsored by Carol Holder and John Mallinckrodt; Epic Design Build Inc; Foothill Transit; Bernadette Kendall, Wheeler Steffen Sotheby’s International Realty; The Vera Law Group; and VMA Communications, Valerie Martinez. The exhibition will remain on view through March 23, 2025.

TOP L-R: Sponsors Bernadette Kendall of Wheeler Steffen Sotheby’s International Realty and Valerie Martinez of VMA Communications

Artist Jaime “Germs” Zacarias with Cathy and Frank Garcia

Tom McGuire and Cynthia Cervantes McGuire. Photo by Reine Bouret



A Conversation About Art and Community in Aztlán

The feeling of community was strong at our February program about Art and Community in Aztlán. At one of our best attended panels, speakers Frank Garcia, Tan Jazz Mont, and Jose Lozano (featured artists and collectors), alongside special guest Maria Esther Fernandez from the Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art & Culture explored the ever-evolving intersection of art and community in the Chicanx community.

1942-2024

Remembering Tony Sheets

Artist, Exhibition Director, and Steward of his Father’s Public Works

Tony Sheets, son of Millard Sheets, passed away on December 10. A dedicated preserver of his father’s legacy, he played a key role in saving many of Millard’s murals. Born in 1942, he grew up in Padua Hills, apprenticed under Albert Stewart, and later attended Cal Poly, Pomona. He became a serious painter in the 1970s and taught workshops worldwide.

Sheets created large-scale murals in downtown Los Angeles, including a 1,000-foot bas-relief at the World Trade Center. From 2007 to 2015, he served as Exhibit Director of the Millard Sheets Center for the Arts at Fairplex, advancing his father’s vision. He also championed the preservation of Millard’s murals, aiding in restorations and relocations.

Donations in his memory can be made to the Claremont Lewis Museum of Art or the Gualala Arts Center.



Tony Sheets rescued his father’s Tournament of Roses Parade and installed the restored mural at Pasadena City College in 2014. Photo by Walt Mancini/Pasadena Star-News

CLAREMONT LEWIS

MUSEUM OF ART

P.O. Box 1136, Claremont, CA 91711

CLMA CALENDAR 2025



Mark your calendar for these upcoming events

**Art Night Out:
Wrapped Sculpture Workshop**
Thursday, March 21, 6-9 pm

**Sound Formations
Opening Reception**
Saturday, April 5, 6-9 pm

Sound Formations LIVE!
Saturday, May 3, 4-10 pm

Free 4 All
Saturday, July 19, 6-9 pm

**Complications in Color
Opening Reception**
Saturday, August 2, 6-9 pm

Fall Gala
Saturday, September 20, 5:30 pm

FestivArts at Padua Hills
Sunday, November 2, 11 am-4 pm

**She Opens the Door
Opening Reception**
Saturday, December 6, 6-9 pm



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