



For Immediate Release
July 9, 2015

Inaugural SFMOMA Contemporary Vision Award to Honor Photographer Annie Leibovitz



SAN FRANCISCO—On Tuesday, November 3, 2015, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA) will honor photographer Annie Leibovitz with the inaugural SFMOMA Contemporary Vision Award. The award celebrates the extraordinary achievements of global leaders—creators, innovators and change-makers—whose work foregrounds contemporary art as a vital and meaningful part of public life. Presented by the Modern Art Council, SFMOMA’s premier fund-raising auxiliary, this event supports the museum’s education and exhibition programs.

“We are thrilled to be honoring Annie Leibovitz, an artist who launched her outstanding career right here in our city, at the San Francisco Art Institute,” said Neal Benezra, SFMOMA director. “Her bold portraits and documentation of the social landscape help energize critical dialogue about contemporary global leaders, artists and communities. This event will celebrate Leibovitz’s important contributions, and her powerful use of the photographic medium.”

Originally from Connecticut, Leibovitz began her career as a photojournalist for *Rolling Stone* in 1970 while she was a student at the San Francisco Art Institute. After her first major assignment shooting a cover story on John Lennon, she became the magazine’s chief photographer in 1973. Throughout her work at *Rolling Stone*, and later at *Vanity Fair* and *Vogue*, she developed

a large and distinguished body of work that encompasses many of the best-known portraits of our time.

In addition to SFMOMA's Contemporary Vision Award, Leibovitz has been recognized with several other significant honors. She was made a *Commandeur in the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* by the French government in 2006, received the International Center of Photography's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009, and was given the American Society of Magazine Editors' first Creative Excellence Award and the Centenary Medal of the Royal Photographic Society in London. In 2012, she was the recipient of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) Award to Distinguished Women in the Arts, the Wexner Prize from the Wexner Center for the Arts, and was honored with the Prince of Asturias Award for Communication and Humanities in 2013.

The award celebration will be held at the historic Regency Ballroom in San Francisco. The evening will be chaired by Modern Art Council member Courtney C. Dallaire, and will feature a dinner and discussion with Leibovitz in conversation with a notable guest moderator. The 2015 SFMOMA Contemporary Vision Award is sponsored by Phillips.

About the SFMOMA Contemporary Vision Award

The SFMOMA Contemporary Vision Award annually recognizes creative minds across all disciplines and professions who have helped redefine contemporary visual culture. Presented by the Modern Art Council, the award honors the extraordinary contributions of cultural leaders internationally and fosters a greater understanding of their achievements.

Proceeds from this annual event help fund the museum's education and exhibition programs, supporting SFMOMA's mission and encouraging the next generation of artists.

What

SFMOMA's 2015 Contemporary Vision Award

When

Tuesday, November 3, 2015 • 7–10 p.m.

Where

The Regency Ballroom, San Francisco

Tickets

\$15,000 Vision Award Society Table (seats 10)

\$10,000 Grand Benefactor Table (seats 10)

\$1,500 Vision Award Society Ticket

\$1,000 Grand Benefactor Ticket

\$650 Benefactor Ticket

\$400 Patron Ticket

Who

Event Chair: Courtney C. Dallaire

Modern Art Council President: Candace Cavanaugh

Contemporary Vision Award Event Committee: Afsaneh Akhtari, Jennifer Benham, Danielle Berson, Florence Buatois, Candy Caldwell, Ellen Coleman, Christine Curry, Nathalie Delrue-

McGuire, Deniece Duscheone, April Filer, Jessica Gaynor, Laura Horn Nagle, Ivette Esserman, Anne Laury, Betsy Linder, Amelia Morris, Sujata Pherwani, Diane Rice, Heather Sawtelle, Claire Slaymaker, Virginia Smith, Christine Suppes, Maria Tenaglia Watson, Marilyn Tortorice, Ariane Trimuschat, Stephanie Tuttle.

Sponsor

The 2015 SFMOMA Contemporary Vision Award is sponsored by Phillips.

Event Hashtag

#ContemporaryVision

More

For tickets or more information call the Modern Art Council at 415.357.4125 or visit sfmoma.org.

About the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

Founded in 1935 as the first West Coast museum devoted to modern and contemporary art, SFMOMA is currently undergoing a major, Snøhetta-designed [expansion project](#) to open in 2016 that will significantly enhance gallery, education, and public spaces, enabling the museum to better showcase more of its expanded permanent collection. While the museum is temporarily closed, SFMOMA is [On the Go](#) with an extensive array of off-site programming across the Bay Area and beyond.

Visit sfmoma.org or call 415.357.4000 for more information.

Media Contacts

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Image credit:

Annie Leibovitz, New York City, 2012. Photograph by Nick Rogers.

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