IN A NEW LIGHT CAMPAIGN

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A Passion for Contemporary Art

Three Trustees bring their support—and their hearts—to the BMA's endowment for contemporary art exhibitions.

July 2009

"The Cone Sisters collected the art that was contemporary to them," says Suzanne Cohen, Immediate Past Chair of the BMA Board of Trustees. "We're excited about supporting the art that is contemporary to us. We feel we're continuing an important tradition: the tradition of bringing new art to Baltimore."

During the BMA's campaign, In A New Light, many generous friends and Members have been stepping forward to make important gifts to the Museum. Three BMA Trustees have been especially supportive of the Museum's endowment for contemporary art exhibitions. Suzanne Cohen, Katherine Hardiman and her husband Joseph, and Nancy Dorman and her husband Stanley Mazaroff have each championed contemporary art at the BMA for many years. This endowment helps fulfill their passion for this area of the collection.

Why the endowment for contemporary art exhibitions? "Contemporary programs are willing to take risks," Cohen says. "That's what art should do. This is an important role for the BMA to play and something I want to help nurture." Sue says that, for her, a challenging exhibition can often be the most rewarding.



Katherine and Joseph Hardiman became affiliated with the BMA in 1982, when she chaired the Museum's Sales & Rental Gallery. "Endowment is essential so that the BMA can continue to be a leader in the field," she says. "When an institution has a strong endowment, it creates many opportunities and possibilities for art to thrive."

Nancy Dorman agrees. "We want to build the endowment because that's the lifeblood of a museum," she says. Nancy first became involved with the BMA by joining the Friends of Modern and Contemporary Art. Her husband, Stanley, who grew up in Baltimore, has always loved the BMA. "We're very pleased to direct our gift toward contemporary programming," he says. "The BMA has created fabulous contemporary exhibitions over the last few years, and we'd like this to continue."

For these three families, a commitment to the endowment for contemporary art exhibitions is worthy of their investment because it's a way to extend the BMA's legacy and contribute to the vitality of the region. "The Museum is a key asset to the city of Baltimore," Nancy says, "so naturally we want to support it.

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