

IN A NEW LIGHT CAMPAIGN



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A Transformative Gift to the BMA

Robert E. Meyerhoff and Rheda Becker make a \$1.5 million gift to support the renovation of the BMA Contemporary Wing

July 2012



John Waters joins Rheda Becker and Bob Meyerhoff, alongside the Waters self-portrait, John Jr., they donated to the Museum—a photograph in which the artist added his signature mustache to an existing childhood portrait.

Baltimore-based philanthropists Robert E. Meyerhoff and Rheda Becker are nationally renowned as supporters of arts and education whose generosity is seen throughout our city. Their \$1.5 million campaign gift reflects the donors' enthusiasm for the Museum's re-envisioning of the Contemporary Wing, which opens November 18, 2012.

"The Baltimore Museum of Art is a great treasure in our city, and we both value our wonderful experiences at the BMA throughout the years. This past season, we worked closely with the present staff, and were very inspired by their accomplishments and so impressed by their aspirations for the future of contemporary art at the BMA. We are

really pleased to help them actualize their dreams by making this contribution," said Bob Meyerhoff and Rheda Becker in discussing their gift.

The first gallery welcoming visitors to the transformed Wing will be the Robert E. Meyerhoff and Rheda Becker Gallery, named in honor of these philanthropic

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and cultural leaders. "This gallery will serve as a dynamic special project space for bringing new art being created today into dialogue with the BMA's great collection," said BMA Director Doreen Bolger. "We are thrilled to receive this incredibly generous support from two of the Museum's dearest friends."

Meyerhoff and Becker were instrumental in bringing the internationally renowned photographer Candida Höfer to Baltimore to photograph the Peabody Library and Walters Art Museum, resulting in works that were presented in the BMA exhibition *Candida Höfer: Interior Worlds*. "Celebrating the

cultural wealth of our city is a passion for Bob and Rheda," explained Bolger. "They brought together three major Baltimore institutions, the BMA, Walters, and the Peabody at JHU, and worked with us to realize a shared vision for this inspiring exhibition."

Bob Meyerhoff and Rheda Becker also recently gave the Museum two important works of art. *John Jr.* is a self-portrait by John Waters, the iconic Baltimore artist who has drawn worldwide acclaim not only for his films but also for his photography. *River II* by Ellsworth Kelly, a striking large-scale print, builds on the Museum's significant collection of this highly influential artist's work.

The Contemporary Wing will feature revitalized galleries showcasing masterworks from the collection alongside exciting acquisitions by established and emerging artists. In addition to collection galleries, the renovated Wing will encompass dedicated spaces for changing exhibitions, including a gallery for film, video, and digital presentations, and spaces for interactive learning.

Through Meyerhoff and Becker's generous gift, the re-envisioned Wing will offer visitors engaging opportunities to enjoy unexpected, thought-provoking encounters with contemporary art.