

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Gucci presents LACMA 2021 Art+Film honorees

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Amy Sherald, Kehinde Wiley and Steven Spielberg are this year's honorees. Image courtesy of Gucci

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) has announced the honorees of its 2021 Art+Film Gala, presented by Italian fashion house Gucci.

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On Nov. 6, 2021, LACMA will honor artists Amy Sherald and Kehinde Wiley and filmmaker Steven Spielberg. On the occasion of its 100th anniversary, Gucci continues its partnership with the museum as the presenting sponsor of the annual event.

"Art and film are both irreplaceable experiences through which we can better understand ourselves and others, and we are excited to once again bring the worlds of art and film together at this event," said Michael Govan, CEO of LACMA, in a statement. "It is a great privilege for LACMA to honor Amy Sherald and Kehinde Wiley as we welcome the public to the Los Angeles presentation of The Obama Portraits, along with Steven Spielberg, whose masterpieces of cinema continue to shape our culture."

Art+Film

Ms. Sherald documents the contemporary African American experience in the United States through figurative paintings. She reengages with the history of photography and portraiture to invite viewers to participate in a more complex debate about accepted notions of race and representation, and to situate Black heritage centrally in American art.

Mr. Wiley is an American artist best known for his portraits that render people of color in the traditional settings of Old Master paintings. Mr. Wiley's work brings art history face-to-face with contemporary culture, using the visual rhetoric of the powerful and the sublime to celebrate Black and brown people the artist has met throughout the world.

In 2018, Mr. Wiley became the first Black artist to paint an official U.S. Presidential portrait for the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery. Former U.S. President Barack Obama selected Mr. Wiley for this honor.



Portrait of President Barack Obama by Mr. Wiley. Image credit: National Portrait Gallery

Mr. Spielberg is one of the world's most successful and influential filmmakers, and is currently chairman of Amblin Partners, a corporate descendent of DreamWorks, SKG, which he co-founded in 1994.

He is a three-time Academy Award winner, Kennedy Center Honoree, recipient of the Irving G. Thalberg Award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015 from President Barack Obama.

From Nov. 7, 2021 through Jan. 2, 2022, "Michelle LaVaughn Robinson Obama" by Amy Sherald and "Barack Obama" by Kehinde Wiley will be on view at LACMA in the West Coast presentation of "The Obama Portraits Tour," organized by the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery.

"Black American Portraits," a complementary exhibition examining two centuries of Black portraiture drawn from LACMA's permanent collection, will be on view Nov. 7, 2021 to April 17, 2022.

LACMA trustee Eva Chow and actor Leonardo DiCaprio have championed the museum's film initiatives since 2011, and will continue their efforts as the 2021 Art+Film Gala co-chairs.

Proceeds from the annual Art+Film Gala go toward underwriting LACMA's initiative to make film more central to the museum's curatorial programming, while also funding LACMA's broader mission. This includes exhibitions, acquisitions and educational programming that explore the intersection of art and film.

Gucci has previously shown interest in the art of film having hosted its own digital film festival to highlight the work of emerging designers.

In November 2020, #GucciFest released several short films featuring new designers as well as the label's seven-part miniseries ([see story](#)).