

HAMMER

NEWS RELEASE

HAMMER MUSEUM HONORS JANE FONDA AND LAUREN HALSEY AT 20TH ANNUAL GALA IN THE GARDEN

*Evening Raised \$2.4 Million to Support the
Hammer's Internationally Acclaimed Exhibitions and Public Programs*

*Attendees Included Usher, LeBron James, Gala Co-Chair Savannah James, Will Ferrell,
Dustin Hoffman, Molly Shannon & More*



*[Left: Lauren Halsey, Jane Fonda, Zoë Ryan; Top Right: Ted Danson, Mary Steenburgen;
Bottom Right: Stormzy, April McDaniel, Savannah James, LeBron James]*

EVENT PHOTOS: Download Selects [HERE](#); Available on [Gettyimages.com](#)

(Los Angeles, CA) — On Saturday, May 17, 2025, the [Hammer Museum](#) at UCLA welcomed artists, collectors, patrons of the arts, cultural and civic leaders, and celebrities for the 20th annual Gala in the Garden. The star-studded evening honored **Jane Fonda** and **Lauren Halsey** for their profound contributions to society through their work. The sold-out Gala raised \$2.4 million to support the Hammer's dynamic and internationally acclaimed exhibitions and public and academic programs, which are always free to the public.

An annual highlight of the Los Angeles cultural calendar, the evening opened with remarks by Gala co-chair **Jarl Mohn**, who introduced Hammer Museum director **Zoë Ryan**. **Thelma Golden**, director of the Studio Museum in Harlem, took the stage to pay tribute to Halsey, and **Ted Danson** and **Mary Steenburgen** honored Fonda.

Ryan, who was appointed director of the Hammer in January, said “I feel very privileged to carry the torch, and to stay true to the values that are ingrained in the Hammer—especially at a time of extreme polarization in our country, when many feel unsafe, unwelcome, and unheard.” She continued, “The Hammer Museum is, and always will be, a gathering place for everyone in our community... At times like these, our cultural institutions are even more essential to amplifying the voices of artists and thought leaders who have the power to change perspectives on the world around us.”

Introducing their longtime friend, Danson and Steenburgen praised Fonda’s passion for the arts and activism. “She got me arrested once,” **Danson** shared. “It sounds a little more dramatic than it actually was, but it changed me profoundly. I was turning 70 and looking for my soft landing space... Jane was turning 80 and doing the exact opposite. She had her foot on the accelerator and was going as fast as she could to make change.” He concluded, “Thank you for honoring this extraordinary artist, environmental activist, fighter for social justice, and our dear, dear, dear friend, Jane Fonda.”

“I’m so honored by this, from this wonderful and unique museum... I knew Armand Hammer, I bet none of you can say that,” **Fonda** joked before delivering an empowering speech about the impact of art and its intersection with activism. “Two critical things that are needed in today’s dysfunctional, anti-nature, anti-democratic world are art and activism... It’s what I feel the Hammer represents.” Fonda continued, “Art can penetrate our defenses so that we can see and hear what we have been afraid of seeing and hearing. Activism can offer ways to turn us from preoccupation with ourselves into the healing action of service... So let’s all be activists in whatever ways we can and let’s all be sure that includes defending the arts.”

To conclude the evening, Award-winning UK-based singer, songwriter and producer **Griff** delivered a live acoustic performance of her hit single “Last Night’s Mascara,” as well as “Anything” and “Astronaut” from her debut album.

This year’s Gala in the Garden was co-chaired by **Savannah James, April McDaniel, Jarl and Pamela Mohn**, and **Kathleen and Chip Rosenbloom**. Celebrity attendees included **Usher, LeBron James, Will Ferrell, Dustin Hoffman, Molly Shannon, Stormzy**, and more. Also in attendance were artists **Doug Aitken, Andrea Bowers, Diedrick Brackens, Mark Bradford, Kenturah Davis, Jennifer Guidi, Catherine Opie, Ed Ruscha**, and **Jonas Wood**, among others.

ABOUT THE HAMMER MUSEUM

The Hammer Museum is part of the School of the Arts and Architecture at UCLA, and offers exhibitions and collections that span classic to contemporary art. It holds more than 50,000 works in its collection, including one of the finest collections of works on paper in the nation, the Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts. Through a wide-ranging, international exhibition program and the biennial, Made in L.A., the Hammer highlights contemporary art since the 1960s, especially the work of emerging and under recognized artists. The exhibitions, permanent collections, and nearly 300 public programs annually—including film screenings, lectures, symposia, readings, music performances, and workshops for families—are all free to the public.

HAMMER MUSEUM INFORMATION

Admission to all exhibitions and programs at the Hammer Museum is free. Hours: Tuesday–Thursday, Saturday–Sunday 11 a.m.–6 p.m.; Friday 11 a.m.–8 p.m. Closed Mondays and national holidays. Hammer Museum, 10899 Wilshire Boulevard at Westwood, Los Angeles. Onsite parking is \$8 for the first 3 hours

(maximum \$22), or \$8 flat rate after 5 p.m. Valet parking is available at the Lindbrook Drive entrance for \$15. Visit hammer.ucla.edu for details or call 310-443-7000.

Free Admission at the Hammer Museum is courtesy of Marcy Carsey, the Erika J Glazer Family Foundation, and the Anthony & Jeanne Pritzker Family Foundation.

MEDIA CONTACTS

Sunshine Sachs Morgan & Lylis, HammerMuseumGala@ssmandl.com

Scott Tennent, stennent@hammer.ucla.edu