



Debbie Landau, Martin Friedman, and David Berliner. Photo by Ben Gabbe/BFAnyc.com

**MADISON SQUARE PARK CONSERVANCY'S MAD. SQ. ART BENEFIT HONORING
MARTIN FRIEDMAN'S 60-YEAR CAREER IN THE ARTS
ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 300 GUESTS WITH SPECIAL PERFORMANCES BY
COMPOSER PHILIP GLASS AND ARTIST RAFAEL LOZANO-HEMMER**

**1 MILLION DOLLARS RAISED TO SUPPORT PARK'S NEWLY ESTABLISHED
MARTIN FRIEDMAN ENDOWMENT FUND**

New York—On Thursday, May 31, more than 300 guests gathered at New York City's Prince George Ballroom to celebrate **Martin Friedman's** lifelong commitment to contemporary art and artists. Hosted by the **Madison Square Park Conservancy** with event chairs **Adam D. Weinberg, Agnes Gund, Chuck Close, Toby Devan Lewis, Dorothy Lichtenstein, Ursula von Rydingsvard, and Mark di Suvero**, the evening was a reunion of artists and art world leaders whose lives and work have intersected with Martin throughout his 60-year career from his directorship at the Walker Art Center, to his ongoing role as an influential advisor of the Park's Mad. Sq. Art Committee.

Guests enjoyed a three-course dinner catered by **SD26** and celebrated restaurateurs Tony and Marisa May amidst a program of tributes by special guests. Madison Square Park Conservancy President **Debbie Landau** and Chairman of the Board **David Berliner** shared remarks, followed by Director of the Whitney Museum of American Art **Adam D. Weinberg**, artist **Claes Oldenburg**, Executive Director of the Walker Art Center **Olga Viso**, artists **Frank Stella** and **Christo**, Director of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden **Richard Koshalek**, and artists **David Hockney, Chuck Close, and Ursula von Rydingsvard**.

The evening also included a special performance by composer **Philip Glass** who performed *Metamorphosis No. 2* as introduced by **Kate D. Levin**, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. An interactive light installation by artist **Rafael Lozano-Hemmer**, inspired by the physical heartbeat of its participants, then closed the evening with the participation of the night's honoree, Martin Friedman. One million dollars in proceeds was raised for the **Martin Friedman Endowment Fund**, established to provide permanent support to Mad. Sq. Art and the newly founded **Martin Friedman Curator** position.

More than 300 artists, curators, museum directors, philanthropists, and friends and fans of Martin Friedman came together to celebrate this historic occasion, including:

Artists:

Richard Artschwager, John Baldessari, Jennifer Bartlett, Mel Chin, Christo, Chuck Close, Petah Coyne, Richard Deacon, Rachel Feinstein, Teresita Fernandez, Jackie Ferrara, Orly Genger, Jene Highstein,

David Hockney, Bryan Hunt, Mel Kendrick, Charles Long, Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, Claes Oldenburg, Roxy Paine, Martin Puryear, Ursula von Rydingsvard, Alison Saar, Lucas Samaras, Paula Scher, Joel Shapiro, Judith Shea, Cindy Sherman, Pat Steir, Frank Stella, Mark di Suvero, Leo Villareal, William Wegman, Lawrence Weiner.

Galleries:

Tanya Bonakdar, Tanya Bonakdar Gallery; **James Cohan**, James Cohan Gallery; **Sandra Gering**, Gering & Lopez Gallery; **Barbara Gladstone**, Gladstone Gallery; **Arne and Milly Glimcher**, Pace Gallery; **Carroll and Donna Janis**, Carroll Janis, Inc.; **Paul Kasmin**, Paul Kasmin Gallery; **Mary Sabbatino**, Galerie Lelong; **Betsy Senior and Larry Shopmaker**, Senior & Shopmaker Gallery; **Angela Westwater**, Sperone Westwater Gallery.

Museum Directors and Curators:

Richard Armstrong, Director, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum; **Mary L. Beebe**, Director, Stuart Collection, University of California, San Diego; **Rand Castile**, Director Emeritus, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco; **David Collens**, Director, Storm King Art Center; **Layla Diba**, Independent Art Advisor; **Jenny Dixon**, Director, Noguchi Museum; **Stephen Fleischman**, Director, Madison Museum of Contemporary Art; **Richard Flood**, Director of Special Projects and Curator at Large, New Museum; **RoseLee Goldberg**, Founding Director, PERFORMA; **Thelma Golden**, Director and Chief Curator, The Studio Museum in Harlem; **Claudia Gould**, Director, The Jewish Museum; **Louis Grachos**, Director, Albright-Knox Gallery; **John Hanhardt**, Senior Curator for Media Arts, Smithsonian Institution; **John Hatfield**, Executive Director, Socrates Sculpture Park; **Richard Koshalek**, Director, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden; **Ivana Mestrovic**, Director, Spacetime C.C.; **Lisa Phillips**, Director, New Museum; **Jock Reynolds**, Director, Yale University Art Gallery; **Jan Schall**, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art; **Lowery Stokes Sims**, Curator, Museum of Arts and Design; **Stephanie A. Stebich**, Director, Tacoma Art Museum; **Yvonne Force Villareal**, Co-Founder, Art Production Fund; **Olga Viso**, Executive Director, Walker Art Center; **Julián Zugazagoitia**, Director, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.

Collectors, Arts Patrons and Special Guests:

Deborah Berke, Architect; **Linda Blumberg**, Executive Director, Art Dealers Association of America; **Judy Dayton**; **Frank Gehry**, Architect; **Michael Gilligan**, President, The Henry Luce Foundation; **Hugh Hardy**, Architect; **J. Tomilson Hill**, The Blackstone Group; **Dakota Jackson**, Designer; **Raymond Learsy and Melva Bucksbaum**, Art Collectors and Philanthropists; **Sherry and Joel Mallin**, Art Collectors and Philanthropists; **Danny Meyer**, CEO, Union Square Hospitality Group; **Linda Nochlin**, Scholar and Art Historian; **Ronald Pizzuti**, CEO and President, The Pizzuti Companies..

EVENT SPONSORS:

Wine pairings generously provided by **Diane and Joseph Steinberg** from **Seghesio Family Vineyards** in California. Special thanks to **Buffalo Trace**, **Ketel One Vodka**, and **Verity Wine Partners and Classical Wines** for their in-kind donations.

ABOUT MAD. SQ. ART:

Mad. Sq. Art is the free, contemporary art program of the Madison Square Park Conservancy.

Since 2004, Mad. Sq. Art has commissioned and presented more than twenty premier installations in Madison Square Park by acclaimed artists ranging in practice and media. Mad. Sq. Art has exhibited works by artists including **Alison Saar, Bill Beirne, Jim Campbell, Richard Deacon, Bill Fontana, Ernie Gehr, Antony Gormley, Jene Highstein, Tadashi Kawamata, Mel Kendrick, Sol LeWitt, Olia Lialina & Dragan Espenschied, Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, Jacco Olivier, Roxy Paine, Jaume Plensa, Shannon Plumb, Ursula von Rydingsvard, Jessica Stockholder, Mark di Suvero, and William Wegman**, among others.

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The Rudin Family, Lizzie and Jonathan Tisch, the Henry Luce Foundation, the Joseph S. and Diane H. Steinberg Charitable Trust, The Sol LeWitt Fund for Artist Work, Tiffany & Co., Sorgente Group, and The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Additional support is provided by Raymond Learsy and Melva Bucksbaum, Danny and Audrey Meyer, Tishman Speyer, Jamie Welch and Fiona Angelini, NYC and Company, SD26, and *Time Out New York*. Delta Air Lines is the Official Airline sponsor of Mad. Sq. Art. Ace Hotel New York is the Official Hotel Partner of the Madison Square Park Conservancy. Mad. Sq. Art is supported in part with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council. The Madison Square Park Conservancy is a public/private partnership with New York City Parks & Recreation.

For more information on the Madison Square Park Conservancy and its programs, please visit <http://madisonsquarepark.org>.

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