

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Anne Thwaits
520-616-2687
athwaits@tucsonmuseumofart.org

Drs. Mark and Kathleen Sublette Awarded TMA Ambassador Circle Lifetime Achievement Award

Tucson, AZ – Tucson Museum of Art (TMA) is pleased to honor **Drs. Mark and Kathleen Sublette** with the museum's 2021 **Ambassador Circle Lifetime Achievement Award**.

Launched in 2017, the Ambassador Circle Lifetime Achievement Award celebrates the career of an artist, patron or community member who has demonstrated a passion for and commitment to the advancement of the arts in southern Arizona and at the Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block. Previous recipients include James and Louise Glasser (2020), Andy Anderson (2019), Thomas Philabaum (2018) and Jim Waid (2017). Each year nominations for the award are reviewed, and the recipient is selected by a panel that includes members of TMA's Leadership Circle—the museum's foremost philanthropic membership group.

"Drs. Mark and Kathleen Sublette have transformed the appreciation, collecting and importance of arts and culture in Tucson and Southern Arizona," said Jeremy Mikolajczak, the Jon and Linda Ender Director and CEO. "Their commitment and support of artists, institutions and the preservation of Art of the American West are felt far and wide. We are eternally grateful for their ongoing commitment and leadership in advancing TMA's role as an important regional museum."

The Sublettes have a long history of civic philanthropy in Tucson and museums throughout the country. Since 1992 their gallery, Mark Sublette Medicine Man Gallery, has established itself as one of the preeminent art galleries in the American West that specializes in historic and contemporary Western and Indigenous art, textiles and jewelry. The gallery is also home to the Maynard Dixon Museum, which houses more than 150 original works of art by the famed American artist Maynard Dixon.

The Sublettes and their foundation have gifted the Tucson Museum of Art with important historic Indigenous pottery and textiles, work by Tucson artist Maynard Dixon, and have supported exhibitions featuring art of the American West. They have enjoyed advancing the careers of many artists, including Glenn Dean, Shonto Begay, Deborah Copenhaver-Fellows, Fred Fellows, Gregory Kondos, Ed Mell, Billy Schenck and Dennis Zieminski.

In addition to the gallery, Mark Sublette is an authority on Maynard Dixon's artwork and an expert on Indigenous historical art. A popular speaker, Mark writes and produces "The Art Dealer Diaries," a podcast that features artists, curators, museum directors and collectors. Additionally, he is the author of the Charles Bloom Murder Mystery series, *Maynard Dixon's American West*, and is a contributor to *Western Art Collector Magazine*.

At TMA, Mark and Kathleen are active members of the Western Art Patrons, the Contemporary Art Society and the Ambassador Circle. In December 2020, the Sublette Family Foundation gifted 59 pieces

of Southwest Indigenous pottery to TMA's permanent collection. The works date from 1400 to 1700 and derive mostly from the Rio Grande region of the American Southwest. The collection enhances TMA's commitment to collecting Indigenous arts, and selections from the collection will debut in the Indigenous Arts Gallery later this year. As model civic philanthropists, Mark and Kathleen generously give their time and open their gallery for museum functions and support organizations through the underwriting of exhibitions and events.

The Sublettes will receive the Ambassador Circle Lifetime Achievement Award at an event held in their honor in April. The annual Ambassador Circle Dinner is hosted by the TMA Leadership Circle Committee and includes the Ambassador Circle and major museum donors.

Attached: Mark and Kathleen Sublette.png

About TMA Ambassador Circle & Lifetime Achievement Award

The Ambassador Circle is a component of TMA's Leadership Circle, the museum's foremost philanthropic membership group and makes an incredible difference for supporting and sustaining Tucson Museum of Art's permanent collection, exhibitions and programs.

The Ambassador Circle Lifetime Achievement Award, first presented in 2017, celebrates the career of an artist, patron, or community member, who, among other distinctions, has demonstrated a particular commitment to the advancement of the Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block and Southern Arizona Arts community. The Ambassador Circle Lifetime Achievement Awardees exemplify a long and impactful career in artistic excellence, exemplary philanthropic leadership, dedication to arts education and support for and promotion of TMA.

About Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block

Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block (TMA) connects art to life through meaningful and engaging experiences that inspire discovery, spark creativity, and promote cultural understanding. Founded in 1924, TMA encompasses an entire city block in historic downtown Tucson and is committed to developing quality exhibitions, expanding, and diversifying its collection and presenting relevant and innovative programs while broadening public access to the arts.

The museum features exhibitions of Modern and Contemporary art, Latin American art from ancient to today, Indigenous arts and Art of the American West. A permanent collection of over 12,000 works of art spans continents, centuries, and media. TMA's campus includes five properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places, an art education center and research library, the Museum Store and the highly acclaimed museum restaurant Café a la C'Art.

TMA is a private 501(c)(3) charitable arts and education organization.

For additional information visit TucsonMuseumofArt.org or call (520) 624-2333.

The 2020-2021 Exhibition Season at TMA is presented by James and Louise Glasser. With support from the following season sponsors: Fran and Jim Allen, Alice and Paul Baker, Mary Jo Brown, Connie Hillman



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Family Foundation, I. Michael and Beth Kasser, Anne and Ed Lyman, Jeanne Pickering and Mike Andrew, TMA League, Contemporary Art Society, Latin American Art Patrons and Western Art Patrons.

As an institution built upon the original territories of the O'odham, the Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block acknowledges the Indigenous Sonoran Desert communities, past and present, who have stewarded this region throughout generations.

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