

Bechtler Museum of Modern Art Debuts *Bechtler Collection: Relunched and Rediscovered*

September 30 – April 23, 2017

(CHARLOTTE, NC) - The Bechtler Museum of Modern Art debuts its latest feature exhibition, ***Bechtler Collection: Relunched and Rediscovered***, Friday, September 30. The exhibition will feature approximately 134 works from the museum's permanent collection by 40 different artists, 48 of the works have yet to be seen publicly in North America.

The impetus for the show is the considerable material generated by significant grants from the Knight Foundation and the MetLife Foundation that supported new research into the collection. The MetLife Foundation provided funds to create short films to further audience engagement and understanding of the collection and the exhibition process with the Knight Foundation funding the photographing and digitization of the collection for the public to view online.

The galleries are arranged thematically, beginning with an introductory gallery dedicated to the Bechtler family and the artists with whom they were close including Joan Miró, Gustave Singier and Eduardo Chillida. Chillida opens the discussion of space, a central concern for many abstract artists. The next gallery examines the many different 20th century political positions taken by artists from identity politics to classicism's comforting cry for a return to order.

Politics leads to Pop art's cultural critique in a space that features Andy Warhol, Jasper Johns, Pol Mara and Miguel Berrocal. Pop art's superficial critique is followed by a room devoted to different philosophical investigations within artists' work. Finally, we celebrate Concrete art, one of Switzerland's most significant contributions to art history.

"This is a great opportunity to take a deeper dive into the collection." says Bechtler Curator Dr. Jennifer Sudul Edwards. "The Bechtler Museum's building and Niki de Saint Phalle's *Firebird* out front have become icons for Charlotte in the short six years of the museum's history, but there is still so much to learn about the art inside. We are beginning to show more of the contemporary art that Andreas collected, too, which will bring a new dimension to the museum." *Bechtler Collection: Relunched and Rediscovered*, which runs from September 30, 2016 until April 23, 2017, is curated by Dr. Jennifer Sudul Edwards, Ph.D., curator at the Bechtler since 2015.

About the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art

The Bechtler Museum of Modern Art is dedicated to the exhibition of mid-20th-century modern art. It is named after the family of Andreas Bechtler who assembled and inherited a collection created by seminal figures of modernism. The museum is located at Levine Center of the Arts, 420 South Tryon Street, Charlotte 28202. Operating hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sunday 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.; closed Tuesdays. For museum details visit bechtler.org.

ARTWORK IMAGES: Artwork images from *Bechtler Collection: Relaunched and Rediscovered* are available upon request. Contact, Sharon Holm, Bechtler Museum of Modern Art Director of Marketing and Communications at sharon.holm@bechtler.org or office 704.353.9204 / mobile 704.975.2363.

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