

# TACOMA ART MUSEUM

MEDIA RELEASE

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## The Beauty of a Shared Passion: Celebrate with TAM

Tacoma, WA – On October 9, [Tacoma Art Museum](#) (TAM) opens [The Beauty of a Shared Passion: Highlights from the Rebecca and Jack Benaroya Collection](#), on view through April 23, 2017. This special preview exhibition unveils 65 major works of art from the Rebecca and Jack Benaroya Collection. These pieces are among 225 works along with \$14 million included in a promised gift to TAM, announced on Mrs. Benaroya's 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday (January 14, 2016). The funds will support the care of the collection and construction of a new wing at TAM. Olson Kundig will design the museum expansion, planned to open late fall 2018.



Visitors will see stunning paintings, works on paper, sculptures and studio art glass by Northwest and international artists. In fact, this gift places TAM in the top 5 museums nationwide with a collection of American studio glass of this caliber. The exhibition provides an opportunity to see in one location major works by Deborah Butterfield, Kenneth Callahan, Dale Chihuly, Kyohei Fujita, Stanislav Libenský and Jaroslava Brychtová, Ginny Ruffner, Lino Tagliapietra, Cappy Thompson, and many other internationally acclaimed artists.

TAM's Executive Director Stephanie Stebich said "Becky Benaroya made an extraordinary gift to our community. This preview exhibition will give visitors an exciting taste of Becky and Jack's impressive collection, with plenty of surprises in store for the future. Becky's generous gift honors her late husband Jack by ensuring their collection will remain together and can be enjoyed by all for generations to come. TAM is privileged to share the Benaroyas' passion and collecting vision."

TAM's Chief Curator Rock Hushka shared, "The quality of this collection cannot be overstated. There are treasures by artists who are already in TAM's collections, as well as some who have been on our wish list. We are grateful for this precious gift and eager for visitors to experience it."

Becky and Jack Benaroya built their phenomenal collection over the course of 35 years, starting in 1980 with Dale Chihuly's blown glass *Tomato Red Basket Set*. The couple followed their passions and acquired seminal works from Northwest artists who have had national and international impact. Each work in the collection evokes a special memory for the Benaroyas. They often formed lasting friendships with the artists, and purchased several works by each.

"I am very much looking forward to seeing Jack's and my collection on view in the galleries at Tacoma Art Museum. So many people at the museum have been working diligently to share our story and the stories of the artists we have so dearly appreciated. It will be exciting to see our collection in the galleries at TAM, and I am so pleased to share our love of Northwest artists with the region," shared Becky Benaroya.

The exhibition kicks off with a special members-only reception and viewing from 10 am – 12 pm, Sunday, October 9. The public are invited to see the exhibition with free admission from 12 – 4 pm during the lively Fusion Fest Free Community Festival, presented in partnership with the Museum of Glass and Hilltop Artists. Fusion Fest will feature hands-on art-making activities, frameworking demonstrations, and guided gallery tours. As an opening day bonus, parking at TAM is free for museum guests.

Also on October 9, TAM presents a Curator Talk with glass expert Tina Oldknow, former senior curator of modern and contemporary glass at Corning Museum of Glass in upstate New York. She authored *Pilchuck: A Glass School*, and has served as a curatorial consultant on the the Benaroya gift to TAM. Tickets to the curator talk are \$10 general, \$5 members and students with ID and can be purchased at the museum or via the museum's website ([www.TacomaArtMuseum.org](http://www.TacomaArtMuseum.org)).

***The Beauty of a Shared Passion* related programs and events:**

**[Members Only Preview](#)**

Sunday, October 9, 10 am – 12 pm

TAM Members are invited to be the first to see the exhibition. Enjoy refreshments and pastries before the exhibition opens to the public.

**[Fusion Fest Free Community Festival](#)**

Sunday, October 9, 12 – 4 pm

Explore and celebrate the new Rebecca and Jack Benaroya Collection at TAM! Experience fusion in its many forms, whether you're making fused glass, creating your own digital art collection, or learning about the melding of art movements in the Northwest.

See frameworking demonstrations and a hot shop tool table from Museum of Glass; make your own fused glass with Hilltop Artists; participate in glass painting inspired by Northwest artist Cappy Thompson, whose work will be on view in *The Beauty of a Shared Passion*; join the in-gallery activities, take a docent-led tour, listen to live music by the Garfield High School Jazz Combo, and hear a talk by internationally-known glass artist and educator Walter Lieberman. Presented in partnership with the [Museum of Glass](#) and [Hilltop Artists](#).

Support for Fusion Fest provided by Rebecca Benaroya.

**[Curator Talk: Glass Expert Tina Oldknow](#)**

Sunday, October 9, 3 pm

Hear the fascinating story behind the Benaroya's incredible collection from Tina Oldknow. As the former senior curator of modern and contemporary glass at Corning Museum of Glass, New York, Oldknow is one of the foremost glass experts in the country, and a dynamic presenter.

Cost: \$10 general, \$5 members and students with ID

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For press images, to arrange an interview with the curator, or for more information, contact [JVerboort@TacomaArtMuseum.Org](mailto:JVerboort@TacomaArtMuseum.Org).

**Image Credits, top to bottom, left to right:**

**Paul Horiuchi** (Japanese American, 1906–1999), *Color Movement with Purpose*, circa 1970. Collage on six panel screen, 71½ x 144 inches. Tacoma Art Museum, Promised gift of the Rebecca and Jack Benaroya Collection. Photo © TAM, photo by Russell Johnson and Jeff Curtis.

**Dale Chihuly** (American, born 1941), *Red Seaform Set*, 1982–83. Blown glass, dimensions variable. Tacoma Art Museum, Promised gift of the Rebecca and Jack Benaroya Collection. Photo © TAM, photo by Russell Johnson and Jeff Curtis.

**Deborah Butterfield** (American, born 1949), *Untitled*, 1992. Cast bronze and patina, 36 x 54 x 13 inches. Tacoma Art Museum, Promised gift of the Rebecca and Jack Benaroya Collection. Photo © TAM, photo by Russell Johnson and Jeff Curtis. Art © Deborah Butterfield/Licensed by VAGA, New York, NY.

**Ulrica Hydman Vallien**, *Three Faces Mirrored*, circa 1991. Carved and painted glass with wood stand, 51¼ x 35 x 13½ inches. Tacoma Art Museum, Promised gift of the Rebecca and Jack Benaroya Collection.

**Kenneth Callahan** (American, 1905–1986), *Untitled*, circa 1960s. Oil on canvas, 40 x 59¾ inches. Tacoma Art Museum, Promised gift of the Rebecca and Jack Benaroya Collection. Photo © TAM, photo by Russell Johnson and Jeff Curtis.

**About Tacoma Art Museum**

Tacoma Art Museum is an anchor in the city's downtown and a gathering space for connecting people through art. TAM's collection contains nearly 5,000 works, with an emphasis on the art and artists of the Northwest and broader western region. The collection includes the largest retrospective museum collection of glass art by Tacoma native Dale Chihuly on continuous view; the most significant museum collection of jewelry by Northwest artists; key holdings in 19th century European and 20th century American art; and one of the finest collections of Japanese woodblock prints on the West Coast. In 2014, TAM welcomed a gift of 295 works of western American art in the Haub Family Collection, one of the premier collections in the nation and the first major western American art museum collection in the Northwest. The Haub gift included \$20 million for new galleries and endowed funds. The Haub Family Galleries opened in 2014. In January 2016, TAM announced the gift of the Benaroya Collection, including 225 works of art. The donation also includes nearly \$14 million in funding for new gallery space to showcase the collection and an endowment for a dedicated curator and care for the collection. The Benaroya wing is expected to open in fall 2018.

**HOURS** – Tuesdays–Sundays 10 am–5 pm, Third Thursdays 10 am–8 pm;  
Third Thursdays free from 5-8 pm.

**ADMISSION** – Adult \$15, Student/Military/Senior (65+) \$13, Family \$40 (2 adults and up to 4 children under 18). Children 5 and under free. Members always free.

**CONTACT** – 253-272-4258, [www.TacomaArtMuseum.org](http://www.TacomaArtMuseum.org), [info@TacomaArtMuseum.org](mailto:info@TacomaArtMuseum.org)