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**THE HAMMER MUSEUM WILL HONOR MATT GROENING AND LARI PITTMAN AT THE
GALA IN THE GARDEN ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2011**

With tributes by Neil Patrick Harris and Christopher Knight and a performance by Bruno Mars

The Hammer Museum will present its ninth annual Gala in the Garden on **Saturday, September 24, 2011**. Proceeds from the Gala will once again support the Hammer's dynamic and nationally acclaimed exhibitions and free public programs. Every year the Museum honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the arts. This year we will honor two extraordinary creative forces—**Matt Groening**, cartoonist and creator of *The Simpsons*, and **Lari Pittman**, artist and UCLA professor. *Los Angeles Times* art critic **Christopher Knight** will give the tribute to Pittman and actor **Neil Patrick Harris** will be on hand to toast **Groening**. Singer-songwriter and producer **Bruno Mars** will perform. The Grammy-winning artist has been heralded by the *New York Times* as "one of the most versatile and accessible singers in pop." Artist **Jorge Pardo** will design a special courtyard installation featuring garlands of brightly-colored, hanging lanterns in powder-coated steel. **Rosette Delug** and **Darren Star** will serve as co-chairs. This evening is made possible with the generous support of **CXA+ART**, a division of Creative Exchange Agency.

The Gala in the Garden is a highly anticipated event on Los Angeles' fall social calendar and attracts cultural and civic leaders, as well as many artists, collectors, and patrons of the arts. Last year's milestone event raised over \$1.3 million for the Museum. Chef **Suzanne Goin** of Lucques, A.O.C. and Tavern, once again will create the menu. Past tribute speakers and co-chairs have included actress **Jane Fonda**, artist **Jeff Wall**, actress **Diane Keaton**, writer **Salman Rushdie**, writer/director **John Waters**, **Senator Edward Kennedy**, actor/director **Ben Stiller**, actress **Anjelica Huston**, artist **Richard Serra**, and critic **Dave Hickey**; past honorees include **Alice Waters**, **Charles Ray**, **Miuccia Prada**, **John Baldessari**, **Joan Didion**, **Ed Ruscha**, **Dave Eggers**, and **Frank Gehry**. The Gala has sold out in advance each of the past eight years.

Tables of ten are sold in advance in four price tiers: \$75,000 for a Champion table; \$50,000 for a Benefactor Table; \$25,000 for a Patron Table, and \$15,000 for a Supporter Table. Individual tickets can be purchased at each tier: \$7,500 for a Champion seat; \$5,000 for a Benefactor seat; \$2,500 for a Patron seat, and \$1,500 for a Supporter seat.

WHEN: Saturday, September 24, 2011

Cocktails	6:30pm – 8:00pm
Dinner & Tribute Speeches	8:00pm – 10:30pm
Catering provided by Lucques	

MATT GROENING

Matt Groening has forever left an indelible mark on society. His creation *The Simpsons* is now the longest-running comedy in TV history. Voted the "Best Show of the 20th Century" by *Time Magazine*, the series has left a path of catch-phrases and societal commentary. It has also given birth to a theme park ride and U.S. postage stamps, personally designed by Groening. Born in Portland, Oregon, Groening moved to Los Angeles in the early 1980s and started his weekly comic strip "Life in Hell" which continues to this day in syndication and book sales. Groening also created the hit sci-fi series "Futurama." Winner of multiple Emmy awards, the prestigious Peabody Award, Annie Awards and the Rueben Award for Outstanding Cartoonist of the Year, the highest honor presented by the National Cartoonist Society.

LARI PITTMAN

Lari Pittman received his MFA and BFA from Cal Arts and since 1993 has held the position of Professor of Fine Art at UCLA. Surveys of his work include those held at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; the Corcoran Gallery of Art; the Institute of Contemporary Art, London; and the Center for Contemporary Art in Geneva, Switzerland. Pittman has been included in four Biennial Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art, and showed work at *Documenta X* in Germany. Solo exhibitions include those held at Barbara Gladstone Gallery, New York; Greengrassi, London; Monika Sprüth-Philomene Magers Gallery, Munich; and Regen Projects, Los Angeles. Among his group shows are *Eden's Edge: Fifteen LA Artists*, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; *Los Angeles 1955-1985*, Centre Pompidou, Paris; and *Made in California*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

CXA+ART

CXA+ART is an artist management and production company that explores alternative avenues of communication and distribution of the visual arts by aligning renowned artists with luxury brands. CXA+ART develops global art programs and dynamic brand promotions via art campaigns, public relations initiatives, limited edition product designs, store installations, art books and strategic sponsorship deals with luxury brands, art institutions and artists.

ABOUT THE HAMMER MUSEUM

The Hammer Museum, a public arts unit of the University of California, Los Angeles, is dedicated to exploring the diversity of artistic expression through the ages. Its collections, exhibitions, and programs span the classic to the cutting-edge in art, architecture, and design, recognizing that artists play a crucial role in all aspects of culture and society.

Founded by Dr. Armand Hammer in 1990, the museum houses the Armand Hammer Collection of Old Master, Impressionist, and Post-Impressionist paintings and the Armand Hammer Daumier and Contemporaries Collection. Associated UCLA collections include the Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts, comprising more than 45,000 prints, drawings, photographs, and artists' books from the Renaissance to the present; and the Franklin D. Murphy Sculpture Garden on the UCLA campus. The Hammer's newest collection, the Hammer Contemporary Collection, is led by works on paper, particularly drawings and photographs from 1960 to the present.

The Hammer presents major single-artist and thematic exhibitions of historical and contemporary art. It also presents approximately ten Hammer Projects exhibitions each year, providing international and local artists with a laboratory-like environment to create new work or to present existing work in a new context.

As a cultural center, the Hammer offers a diverse range of free public programs throughout the year, including lectures, readings, symposia, film screenings, and music performances. The Hammer's Billy Wilder Theater houses these widely acclaimed public programs and is the new home of the UCLA Film & Television Archive's renowned cinematheque.

HAMMER MUSEUM INFORMATION

For current program and exhibition information call **310-443-7000** or visit **www.hammer.ucla.edu**.

Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, 11am – 7pm; Thursday, 11am – 9 pm; Sunday, 11am – 5 pm; closed Mondays, July 4, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

Admission: \$10 for adults; \$5 for seniors (65+) and UCLA Alumni Association members; free for Museum members, students with identification, UCLA faculty/staff, military personnel, veterans, and visitors 17 and under. The Museum is free for everyone on Thursdays. Public programs are free.

Location/Parking: The Hammer is located at 10899 Wilshire Boulevard, at Westwood Boulevard. Parking is available under the Museum. Rate is \$3 for three hours with Museum validation. Bicycles park free.

Hammer Museum Tours: For group tour reservations and information, call 310-443-7041.