

ARTTABLE

ARTTABLE TO HOST VIRTUAL BENEFIT ON APRIL 16, 2021 Annual event honors Barbara Tober and La Tanya S. Autry, culminates 40th Anniversary celebrations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New York, NY, February 8, 2021— ArtTable, the foremost professional organization dedicated to the advancement of professional women in the visual arts, today announced the date for its [first-ever virtual benefit](#). On **April 16, 2021**, a dynamic online celebration will honor **Barbara Tober**, journalist, philanthropist, and chairman emerita of the Museum of Art and Design, **with ArtTable’s 2021 Distinguished Service to the Visual Arts Award**. ArtTable will also present the 2021 New Leadership Award to **cultural organizer La Tanya S. Autry**.

“ArtTable is proud to continue its commitment to uplifting and celebrating the contributions of impactful women in the visual arts. We are thrilled to honor **Barbara Tober** for her years of thoughtful, steadfast, and forward-looking leadership, and **La Tanya S. Autry**, whose work prioritizes Black voices in the cultural sector and is vitally important to the future,” said **Jessica L. Porter, Lila Harnett Executive Director**. “Our first virtual benefit builds on the extraordinary success of our online programming and allows our members and supporters to celebrate safely at home.”

The event will also salute the 2020 awardees, bringing to a close the 40th Anniversary observances disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. ArtTable will acknowledge 2020 recipient **Susan Unterberg**, photographer and founder of Anonymous Was a Woman, along with four anniversary New Leadership Awardees: **Wassan Al-Khudhairi**, Chief Curator, Contemporary Art Museum, St. Louis; **Erin Christovale**, Associate Curator, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Lauren Haynes, Director of Artists Initiatives and Curator, Contemporary Art, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas; and **Jami Powell**, Associate Curator of Native American Art, Hood Museum of Art, Hanover, New Hampshire. Find more information on the 2020 Awardees [here](#).

The 2021 benefit also debuts a set of [exclusive limited editions](#) supporting ArtTable’s mission and programming, including a Philanthropy Is Beautiful bracelet by Joan Hornig; a scarf produced by Alice Riot celebrating 25 years of Anonymous Was a Woman; and two untitled prints by New York City artist Sara Sosnowy.

ArtTable, founded in 1980, celebrated 40 years of advancing leadership of women in the visual arts in 2020. Beginning as a small, informal group of professional women in the arts, ArtTable has grown to a national network of over 1,200 women with chapters across the country and members worldwide, together fostering a stronger future for all women in the arts.

2021 Distinguished Service to the Visual Arts Award



A collector, journalist and longtime patron of the arts, **Barbara Tober** joined the Museum of Art and Design's Board in 1988 and was named Chairman in 1994. After 15 years as Chairman, Barbara now serves as Chairman Emerita, in addition to chairing the Museum's International Council.

Tober also serves as president of Acronym, Inc., a venture capital firm that invests in art-related projects, including The Guild Publishing Company, Inc., publishers of The Sourcebook for Architectural and Interior Art. Prior to her involvement in the art world, Tober spent over four decades in corporate advertising and magazine publishing, most notably at Condé Nast Publications, where she was editor-in-chief of Brides magazine for nearly 30 years.

ArtTable's Distinguished Service in the Visual Arts Award acknowledges and celebrates remarkable leadership in the arts. Its recipients exemplify ArtTable's dedication to the lasting impact of the visual arts on our shared cultural life. Past recipients include Susan Unterberg, Estrellita Brodsky, Marian Goodman, Lowery Stokes Sims, Marieluise Hessel, Raymond Leary and Melva Bucksbaum, Marguerite Steed Hoffman, Patricia Phelps de Cisneros, Patricia E. Harris, Marieluise Hessel Artzt, Kathan Brown, Mary Schmidt Campbell, Anita Contini, Alice Denney, Helen W. Drutt English, Elizabeth Easton, Sharon Helgason Gallagher, RoseLee Goldberg, Thelma Golden, Marian Goodman, Kathy Halbreich, Lila Harnett, Ann Sutherland Harris, Alana Heiss, Mary Jane Jacob, Leslie King-Hammond, Ruby Lerner, Susana Torruella Leval, Barbara Luderowski, Margo Machida, Ann Philbin, Lisa Phillips, Joan Rosenbaum, Linda Shearer, Roberta Smith, Susan Sollins, Susan Fisher Sterling, Marion Boulton Stroud, Paula Wallace, Yoko Ono, Toby Devan Lewis, Vishakha N. Desai, Elizabeth A. Sackler, Elizabeth C. Baker, Linda Nochlin, Iris Cantor, Paula Cooper, Marcia Tucker, Lucy Lippard, Stephanie French, Joan Mondale, Dianne H. Pilgrim, Emily Rauh Pulitzer, Agnes Gund, and Kitty Carlisle Hart.

In 2003, as a special gesture to ArtTable and the leading women it honors, Louise Bourgeois created an unnumbered, cast bronze edition to represent the award for Distinguished Service to the Visual Arts. EYE (cast bronze and silver nitrate with a polished patina) is cast each year in commendation to our awardee.

2021 New Leadership Award



As a cultural organizer in the visual arts, **La Tanya S. Autry** centers collective care in her liberatory curatorial praxis. In addition to co-creating *The Art of Black Dissent*, an interactive program that promotes public discussion about the Black liberation struggle and engenders fighting anti-Blackness through the collective imagining of public art interventions, she co-produced *#MuseumsAreNotNeutral*, an initiative that exposes the fallacies of the neutrality claim and calls for an equity-based transformation of museums, and the *Social Justice and Museums Resource List*, a crowd-sourced bibliography. Her latest project, the *Black Liberation Center*, is an experimental series of exhibitions, workshops, and programming spotlighting arts and culture that envision and strategize paths toward the freedom of all Black people, and, thus, all people.

La Tanya has curated exhibitions and organized programs at moCa Cleveland, Yale University Art Gallery, Artspace New Haven, and other institutions. Through her graduate studies at the University of Delaware, where she is completing her Ph.D. in art history, La Tanya has developed expertise in the art of the United States, photography, and museums. Her dissertation “*The Crossroads of Commemoration: Lynching Landscapes in America*,” analyzes how individuals and communities memorialize lynching violence in the built environment and concentrates on the interplay of race, representation, memory, and public space.

ArtTable’s New Leadership Award recognizes an emerging professional who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and made considerable contributions to the visual art field in the earlier stages of their careers. This award was first introduced as part of ArtTable’s 25th anniversary celebration in 2005. Past awardees include Wassan Al-Khudhairi, Erin Christovale, Lauren Haynes, Jami Powell, Alexandra Chang, Naima J. Keith, Lauren Cornell, Sara Raza, Naomi Beckwith, Amy Sadao, Sarah Douglas, Cecilia Alemani, Shamim Momin and Christine Y. Kim, Sarah Elizabeth Lewis, Andrea Barnwell, Melissa Chiu, Fairfax Dorn and Virginia Lebermann, Ellen Haddigan, Bronwyn Keenan, Sheri L. Pasquarella, Maura Reilly, Natasha Schlesinger, Laura Hoptman, Marysol Nieves, Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn, and Olga Viso. This year’s award is *Seven Square Inches of Water*, a limited-edition artwork by Maya Lin created to benefit the “*What Is Missing?*” project.

ArtTable's Annual Benefit & Award Ceremony

The April event is a signature annual benefit and award ceremony celebrating the contributions and accomplishments of exemplary professional women in the visual arts. Members and supporters from all over the country gather for a vibrant afternoon devoted to ArtTable's mission to advance the leadership of women in the arts—a mandate as pressing as ever.

The 2021 event, held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic, offers an opportunity for an even broader group to celebrate ArtTable, the honorees, and each other. Building on the extraordinary success of ArtTable's online programming over the past year, the benefit will be followed by a virtual networking event.

In addition to the benefit and virtual networking event, a set of exclusive limited editions supporting ArtTable's mission are now available, including a bracelet by Joan Hornig; a scarf celebrating 25 year of Anonymous Was a Woman, produced by Alice Riot; and two prints by Sara Sosnowy.

For **tickets, editions, and additional information**, please visit arttable.org/event/2021benefit

MEDIA CONTACTS

Haley Carloni | National Chapters and Programs Manager | hcarloni@arttable.org

Jonathan Marder | Jonathan Marder and Company | jmatter.com/ | jon.marder@gsmltd.net