

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USC Fisher Museum of Art proudly presents *Charles Arnoldi | Four Decades*, a survey of the versatile and prolific Venice Beach artist, which traces the evolution of the artist's expansive and materials-focused practice from the 1970s to the present.

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Image(s)

Los Angeles, November XX, 2019- USC Fisher Museum of Art proudly announces *Charles Arnoldi | Four Decades* from the Collection of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation, a survey of Venice Beach artist Charles (Chuck) Arnoldi. The exhibition, organized by the USC Fisher Museum of Art with the generous support of the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation and curated by Bruce Guenther, author of *Charles Arnoldi: Paper* (2017), opens January 21, 2020 and runs through April 4, 2020.

Charles Arnoldi was a young man from Dayton, Ohio who had seen little of the world when he arrived in Southern California in the mid 1960s. Following stints at a local community college and Chouinard Art Institute, Arnoldi won LACMA's New or Young Talent Award in 1969 and thus began his ever-evolving career which continues to this day in his sprawling Venice studio.

For close to 50 years, Arnoldi's work has reflected a passion for the material world, a commitment to experimentation, and a tireless focus on studio production. *Charles Arnoldi | Four Decades* is drawn from the holdings of the collector Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation.

"Charles Arnoldi is one of the most important artists of our time. It is a distinct pleasure to be able to showcase his vital art—in its many exciting manifestations. This exhibition is significant because it reveals the innovation and creativity that have infused Arnoldi's art over the course of the last four decades. It also brings to the forefront a number of his recent pieces for our art-loving community to see for the first time. His paintings, prints, and sculptural works both please and surprise in their infinite variety," Jordan D. Schnitzer said.

The exhibition presents viewers with a window into Arnoldi's lifelong commitment in search of form and beauty, rendered in whatever media was within reach and allowed him to solve the creative problem at hand.

One of the Venice Beach artists, captured in same 1970s party photographs and spoken of in the same breath as slightly older local artists, including Ed Ruscha and Billy Al Bengston, Arnoldi has always been "the kid." In the highly experimental Los Angeles art scene of the late 1960s and 1970s, Arnoldi established an aesthetic separate from his peers. "The exhibition traces the

evolution of the artist's practice from the seminal *Sticks* works of the 1970s through the aggressive physicality of the plywood-based *Chainsaw* works in the 1980s, into the chromatic glories of the paintings of the last two decades," says curator Bruce Guenther. Through his use of materials, he both created within and radically redefined the two-dimensional form, making artwork at the intersection of sculpture, drawing, and painting.

"Fisher Museum of Art is proud to be the first Los Angeles museum to feature the full range of Chuck Arnoldi's oeuvre. The spectrum of his work is far more extensive and rich than is generally appreciated and we expect this exhibition to excite his longtime admirers as well as a new generation of art lovers."

– Selma Holo, Director of USC Fisher Museum of Art

The exhibition will be complemented by a free publication produced by the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation and authored by curator Bruce Guenther. During the run of the exhibition, the Fisher Museum will present a slate of related public programming including curator and artist talks and a panel featuring Arnoldi and his Venice Beach peers.

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About the Artist: Charles Arnoldi is a contemporary American abstract painter and sculptor. In a boldly graphic and colorful aesthetic, Arnoldi's work employs a wide range of abstract visual language, from hard-edged geometric compositions to fluid, lyrical linework. "I'm always receptive to new ideas, and I pursue them to their logical ends," Born on April 10, 1946 in Dayton, OH, he moved to California at the age of 18 and went on to study at the Chouinard Art Institute in Los Angeles. He has been widely exhibited in the United States and abroad, notably including the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao and The Museum of Modern Art in New York. Today, Arnoldi's works can be found in the collections of the Art Institute of Chicago, the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, among others. Arnoldi lives and works in Los Angeles, CA.

About the Foundation: The Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation was established in 1997 as a non-profit organization to manage the collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer, provide supplemental funding for education and outreach in conjunction with related exhibitions, and publish scholarly texts. The collections are conceived of as a "lending library" with its mission to loan and exhibit contemporary prints and multiples, with best practices in mind, to qualified museums to further appreciate the medium and the artists of our time. Since the program's inception, the Foundation has organized over 110 exhibitions and has art exhibited at over 150 museums.

About the Museum: USC Fisher Museum of Art is the oldest art museum in the city of Los Angeles founded as a free public art museum and still functioning as such in its original location. It was incorporated into the University on November 14, 1939. With a collection of over 2500 pieces of art, USC Fisher Museum's exhibitions range from the Old Masters to the contemporary. USC Fisher Museum has a special interest in collecting and displaying the Art of the Americas, particularly Latin America. The museum is also committed to exhibitions and programming dedicated to exploring significant aspects of social justice through the visual arts.