

# Craft Contemporary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## CONTACT

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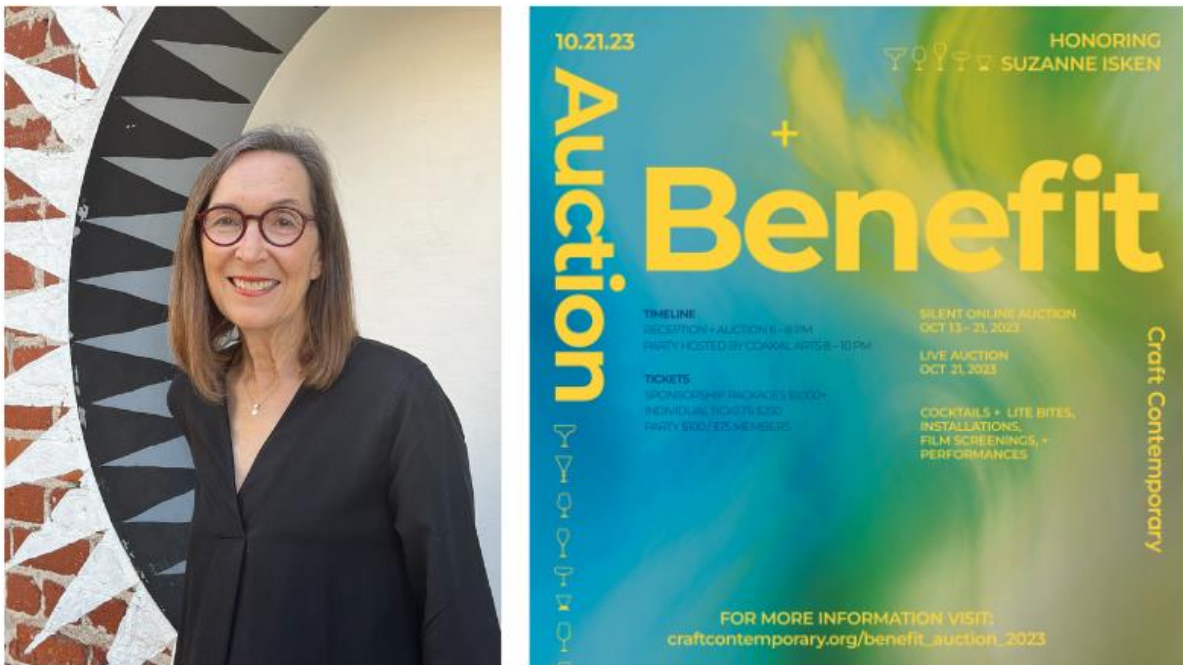
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Craft Contemporary's Annual Benefit + Auction to honor retiring Executive Director Suzanne Isken. Party hosted by downtown LA's Coaxial Arts Foundation will include a special performance by Lu Coy, video projections and DJ Set by Alima Lee.



Los Angeles, October 21, 2023 – Craft Contemporary' announces its Annual Benefit + Auction on Saturday, October 21, 2023. The event promises an extraordinary evening honoring Executive Director Suzanne Isken and celebrating the opening of the museum's fall exhibitions. This annual fundraiser brings together contemporary craft artists and supporters to celebrate Craft Contemporary's mission and promote craft.

## Event Details:

Date: Saturday, October 21, 2023

Time: 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

- Reception + Auction: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
- Party Hosted by Coaxial Arts: 8:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Location: Craft Contemporary, 5814 Wilshire Blvd Los Angeles, CA 90036

**Tickets and Sponsorship:** Craft Contemporary offers exclusive Sponsorship Packages starting at \$1,000+ and Individual Tickets for \$250. *Party Tickets \$100/\$75 members will be available for purchase in early October.* Details on purchasing reception and party tickets are available [online](#).

## About the Honoree:

**Suzanne Isken** joined Craft Contemporary in February 2011 where she has led initiatives to support the creation of contemporary craft and build audiences by developing a sizeable program of hands-on experiences for the public. In 2019 Isken led the Board of Directors in an initiative that renamed the museum, formerly known as the Craft & Folk Art Museum, as Craft Contemporary. Under her direction, the museum has presented landmark exhibitions including *This is Not a Silent Movie: Four Contemporary Alaska Native Artists*, *Betye Saar: Keepin' it Clean*, *Man-Made: Contemporary Male Quilters*, *The US-Mexico Border: Place, Imagination and Possibility*, and *Strings of Desire*. Previously she served as the Director of Education for ten years at The Museum of Contemporary Art, following 10 years of service as coordinator of school and teacher programs and gallery educator. She attended the Getty Leadership Program in 2008. Awards include recognition as the 2004 Pacific Region Art Educator of the Year by the National Art Education Association.

**Event Schedule:** This two-part fundraising evening at the museum promises to be a night to remember:

6–8 p.m. | Cocktail Reception, Auction + Remark

Reception featuring food by [dominica dinnete](#), cocktail experience designed by Margaret Griffith, intimate performance by Matías Anaya and Lu Coy, a lively auction hosted by Andres Payan Estrada and Zeina Baltagi, and remarks honoring Executive Director, Suzanne Isken.

8–10 p.m. | Party

Late night access to our fall exhibitions with a special screening of Linda Sibio's *Prophet of Doom in the Banana Republic*, and program curated by [Coaxial Arts](#) which will include in gallery performance by Lu Coy, video installation, and DJ Alima Lee.

The opening of our Fall Exhibitions [Linda Sibio's](#) Economics of Suffering: Part IV, [Carolyn Castano's](#) Cumanday: Beautiful Mountain, and [Margaret Griffith](#): Chirk.

**Auction:** The public is invited to bid in the Silent Online Auction starting Oct 13 until it closes at 9:00 PM PST on Oct 21. One can bid live or pre-set your maximum bid. Link to auction: <https://givebutter.com/c/craftcontemporary/auction>

**Featured Artists:** Craft Contemporary's Benefit + Auction showcases the exceptional works of 50+ talented artists, including but not limited to:

Ako Castura, Alex Anderson, Alexandra Grant, Alicia Piller, Allison Shulnik, Alyson Iwamoto, Amber Cowan, Amia Yokoyama, Ana Cho, Anais Franco, Andres Payan Estrada, Ann Weber, Ara Oshagan, Aubrey Longley-Cook, Betsey Carter, BZIPPY, Caitlin Parker + Brece Honeycutt, Cammie Staros, Carla Tome, Carmen Mardonez, CHIECO ceramics, Christina Margarita Erives, Dana Chieco Studio, Daniela Soberman, David Hicks, Emily Yong Beck, Ena Dubnoff, Erik Mendel, Fay Ray, Fran Siegel, Francis River, Frank Gehry, Galia Linn, Georgina Treviño, Gina Zycher, Grace Stott, Guillermo Bert, Jenny Hata Blumenfield, Jonathan Yamakami, Julia Haft-Candell, Kang Seung Lee, Kris Erickson, Kristy Moreno, KT Glassworks, Leena Similu, Linda Nguyen Lopez, Linda Smith, Linda Vallejo, Lindsey Lou Howard, Liz Robb, Lizette Hernandez, Luciana Abait, Maryam Yousif, Melinda Wax, Mercedes Gertz, Meredith Strauss, Miguel Osuna, Miguel Torres-Macias, Molly Haynes, Moon Jar Design, Narsiso Martinez, Paz G, Perro y Arena, Ramekon O'Arwisters, Salvador Jiménez-Flores, Sample Haus, Sasha Koozel Reibstein, Sydnie Jimenez + Steven Lee, Valerie Mitchell, Verre Modern, Zeina Baltagi.

**Supporting Galleries + Friends:** We are thankful for the support of renowned galleries and friends, including:

Adam's Forge, Commonwealth and Council, Charlie James, Diane Rosenstein Gallery, Kimpton Hotels, LA Phil, Lapis Press, P.F. Candle Co., Moskowitz Bayse, Patricia Sweetow Gallery, Sargent's Daughters, Sebastian Gladstone, Shulamit Nazarian, The Lodge, The Pit and Track 16.

**Host Committee:** We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our esteemed Host Committee members for their dedication and support:

Nancy Adams & Charles Sims, Sasha Ali, Alex Anderson, Diedrick Brackens, Coaxial Arts, Rich Erickson & Suki Ngai, Luis Flores, Maya Fuhr, Christina Gregory, Wally Marks III, Pamela Mass,

Alicia Piller, Liz Robb, Alma Ruiz, Betye Saar, Patricia Sweetow, Angelik Vizcarrondo-Laboy, Saskia Wilson-Brown, Bari Ziperstein and The Pit.

**Event Décor by:** [shapiro joyal studio](#)

**Sponsors:** We appreciate the generous contributions of our sponsors, including Repurpose, Don Julio 1942 Reserve and Topo Chico.

**Proceeds and Impact:** All proceeds from the Benefit + Auction will provide critical support for Craft Contemporary's exhibitions and educational initiatives including pay what you can Sundays, our free teen and senior programs, partnerships with LA's Title 1 schools, and beloved events like Clay LA.

**For media inquiries, please contact:**

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**For event inquiries, please contact:**

Adrienne Toomey, Director of Development [adrienne@craftcontemporary.org](mailto:adrienne@craftcontemporary.org)

### **About Craft Contemporary**

Craft Contemporary is an art museum whose purpose is to reveal the potential of craft to educate, captivate, provoke, and empower. Craft Contemporary achieves its mission by exhibiting the artists of our time who favor craft materials and processes. Giving voice to local artists, emerging artists, and often under-recognized mid-career artists is a museum priority that works to ensure the recognition of various voices not always heard in larger institutions. The museum strives to achieve equitable access through free and low-cost programs, and the inclusion of multiple teaching artists from communities throughout Los Angeles who offer unique art making workshops, K-12 school programs, senior adult workshops, and art talks. For more information, visit [www.craftcontemporary.org](http://www.craftcontemporary.org).

LOCATION: 5814 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036

ADMISSION: FREE every Sunday

REGULARLY: \$9 general admission; \$7 for students and adults 65+; Free for Craft Contemporary members and children under 12.

HOURS: Tuesday - Sunday, 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

### **About Coaxial Arts Foundation**

Coaxial Arts Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit, multi-disciplinary media arts organization devoted to media, sound, and performance art. Our mission is to facilitate a collective of artists that supports the community at large by running an art space where one can experience new

work of experimental video, sound, and performance art under one roof. Started by artists for artists, Coaxial functions on a fundamental principle: to support working artists within an essential framework to promote and generate new works. By providing a range of services to underground artists, we are able to provide a space for artists to create, experiment, and explore topics that are often overlooked and seen as transgressive. We are one of the few organizations in Los Angeles that explicitly supports the creation of and presents video art and new multimedia works. In this position, we serve as a central hub for the community of artists dedicated to this type of production. Since opening our brick and mortar in 2015, Coaxial has provided numerous residencies, studio space, technical support, and public exhibition space to showcase underground artists. We focus on making and providing a space/forum for the creation of new projects, and further experimenting and pushing what art is and its purpose.

Coaxial Arts Foundation  
1815 S Main St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90015  
(213) 536-8020

### **Performers**

Matías Anaya (she/her) is a Los Angeles based transfeminine musical powerhouse. As a multi-instrumentalist and producer of Peruvian and Uruguayan ancestry, she composes queer Latinx music in a plethora of genres - from cumbia and merengue to punk and house.

Lu Coy (they/them) is a queer mixed media artist and musician based in Los Angeles, California. Originally from Southwest Texas, Lu is of Mexican and Ukrainian Jewish heritage and creates music which ranges from complex electronic soundscapes to dark, deeply confessional acoustic songs. With their introspective and ritualistic performances, Coy guides their audiences through the fading architectures of ancestral, transcestral and personal memory to salvage the forms of the dead and heal moments of personal loss and failure.

Alima Lee. DJ / multimedia / video artist. los angeles / new york city