

Bruce Museum to Honor Art World Luminaries at Tenth *Icon Awards in the Arts*, November 29, 2018

Greenwich CT, October 17, 2018 – The Bruce Museum’s **Icon Awards in the Arts** recognizes the contributions of distinguished figures in the art world who enrich the cultural life of our community. This year’s ceremony, taking place at the Belle Haven Club in Greenwich on Thursday, November 29, will honor the following individuals in three categories:

Artist

Petah Coyne

Art Historian

Kenneth E. Silver

Collectors/Patrons of the Arts

Herbert Lust

Ann and RJ Vassiliou

Hailed as one of the favorite Museum events of the year, the Icon Awards will begin with a cocktail reception at 5:30 pm, followed by a panel discussion and awards presentation at 6:30 pm and dinner with the honorees at 7:30 pm.

The subject of the panel discussion among the honorees is “Creating, Curating and Collecting: The Art Market Today.” The moderator is **Evan Beard**, National Art Services Executive, US Trust, Bank of America Private Wealth Management. Based in New York City, Evan leads the bank’s outreach to private and institutional art collectors, investors, and artists nationwide.



Petah Coyne
Photograph by Kathy Grove

Petah Coyne is a contemporary sculptor and photographer best known for her large- and small-scale hanging sculptures and floor installations. Working in innovative and disparate materials, her media has ranged from the organic to the ephemeral, from incorporating dead fish, mud, sticks, hay, black sand, specially formulated and patented wax, satin ribbons, and silk flowers, to, more recently, velvet, taxidermy, and cast wax statuary. Unafraid to confront a range of subjects or contemporary themes, Coyne’s innate dualities are transposed in the dichotomous themes of her work: transformation and constancy, life and loss, beauty and darkness. A native of Oklahoma, Coyne currently lives in New York.

Coyne's work is in numerous museum collections, including the Museum of Modern Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, Whitney Museum of Art, Brooklyn Museum, Philadelphia Museum of Art, SFMoMA, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, and Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, among others. A solo exhibition of new and recent work, *Having Gone I Will Return*, is on view at Galerie Lelong & Co. in New York City through October 27, 2018.

Ken Silver is Silver Professor of Art History at New York University, where he received his bachelor's degree. Silver received his M.A. and Ph.D. at Yale, and has taught there, as well as at Vassar and Columbia. An authority on both European and American modern art, Silver is the author of numerous books and exhibition catalogues and is an active lecturer and guest curator. Silver has been the recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship and an American Council of Learned Societies Grant; he has also been a Getty Research Institute Visiting Scholar and a Mellon-Getty Fellow at the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C. Silver is a Contributing Editor of *Art in America* magazine and Adjunct Curator of Art at the Bruce Museum.



Kenneth E. Silver



Herbert Lust, with Alberto Giacometti sculpture.
Photograph by Barbara Leon

Herbert Lust has led a double life. Until he was 30, his career was devoted to literature, which he also taught at the University of Chicago. Then he became the first literature professor and Fulbright Scholar to serve as chairman of the board for not one but two New York Stock Exchange-listed companies. However, his personal life has centered on the literary and art worlds. He has been retired from investment banking since 1995 and devotes his time once again to literature and art.

Lust has published novels and well-known art books, among them *A Dozen Principles for Art Investment* (1969), the first book to recognize that excessive money printing would make art appreciate far more than securities. His books on Alberto Giacometti (the catalogue raisonné on the complete graphics), Enrico Baj, and Hans Bellmer are valued museum references. His vast art collection has huge holdings of artists who were close friends before he began collecting them, among them Alberto Giacometti, whom he met at a Parisian soirée, and Robert Indiana, whom he met at a lavish New York party.

Ann and RJ Vassiliou's connection to the Bruce began nearly 20 years ago with excursions to the Museum with their then young children. This developed into membership on the Collector's Council, and Ann joined the Board of Trustees in 2013.

Ann was born and raised in Iowa and is the daughter of John and Mary Pappajohn, who for many years were named in the annual *ARTnews* Top 200 Collectors list. Ann was introduced to art at an early age, with frequent trips to New York that included museum and gallery visits. Birthday presents came in the form of favorite works. Many of these pieces form the cornerstone of Ann and RJ's collection.



RJ and Ann Vassiliou

RJ's interest in the arts was honed as a student, having attended The Cooper Union and Princeton University. At the onset, the couple established a policy where they both needed to agree on any acquisition, and decisions have always been unanimous. Their collection now includes works by Koons, Kusama, de Kooning, Marden, and Butterfield, to name a few.

Besides their involvement with the Bruce, the couple shares their many philanthropic interests. Ann is a Sustainer in the Junior League of Greenwich, previously served as an alumni trustee at Pine Manor College and has volunteered extensively at Sacred Heart Greenwich and Trinity Catholic High School. RJ currently serves as Chairman of the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Endowment and was recently appointed to the Advisory Council of the Princeton University Art Museum.

The Icon Awards in the Arts is supported by a Benefit Committee composed of more than 50 advocates of the Bruce Museum and arts and culture in Greenwich and the greater community. The Committee is led by Peter C. Sutton, The Susan E. Lynch Executive Director of the Bruce Museum. The organizers are grateful for the support of US Trust, sponsor of the Tenth Icon Awards in the Arts. Additional support provided by Gale and Bob Lawrence. The media sponsor is Greenwich Magazine/Moffly Media.

"US Trust is proud to offer their support to the Bruce Museum for the Icon Awards," says Robert Pizzella, Managing Director and Market Executive at US Trust for Fairfield County. "Their work in the community has been outstanding in reaching all generations of society."

For more information about the Icon Awards or to receive an invitation, please contact Brooke Amico, Special Events Manager, at 203-413-6761 or bamico@brucemuseum.org. Reservations for the cocktail reception, panel discussion, and awards ceremony, as well as the dinner that follows, may also be made at brucemuseum.org.



BRUCE MUSEUM
One Museum Drive • Greenwich, CT 06830-7100
203.869.0376 • www.brucemuseum.org

Press Release

####

About the Bruce Museum

The Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, Connecticut, presents more than a dozen changing exhibitions in art, natural science and culture annually. The Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for students up to 22 years, \$8 for seniors and free for members and children under 5 years. Individual admission is free on Tuesday. Free on-site parking is available and the Museum is accessible to individuals with disabilities. For more information, call 203-869-0376 or visit brucemuseum.org.

Media contact:

For more information, please contact Scott Smith, Director of Marketing and Communications;
ssmith@brucemuseum.com; 203-413-6735.