

**THE MENIL COLLECTION RAISES NEARLY \$3 MILLION AT
25th ANNIVERSARY *CELEBRATION IN BLUE* GALA
ON FRIDAY NOVEMBER 30**

**Completing the weekend's anniversary events, *Bleu Electrique* draws crowd of
young professionals on Saturday night, and
Philip Glass premieres a new work honoring the Menil in a free public concert
Sunday afternoon**

HOUSTON, TEXAS— Art-world celebrities and patrons from Houston and around the world gathered at the Menil Collection on Friday evening, November 30, for *Celebration in Blue*, only the third gala the museum has held since its opening in 1987. Dining and dancing amid a décor inspired by the signature color of Yves Klein, with paintings by the French artist prominently displayed, the guests contributed more than \$2.2 million in table and ticket sales and approximately \$600,000 in a silent art auction to support the Menil Collection on its 25th anniversary.

Menil Director **Josef Helfenstein** welcomed distinguished honorary chairs **Almine and Bernard Ruiz-Picasso**, as well as the evening's co-chairs **Franci Crane, Sara Dodd-Spickelmier, Isabel Lummis, Susan de Menil, and Karen Pinson**. Mr. Helfenstein also read greetings sent by honorary event chairs **François Delattre**, Ambassador of France to the United States; **Paal Kibsgaard**, CEO of Schlumberg Ltd.; and artist **Jasper Johns**.

Among the guests toasting the Menil on its first quarter-century were **Lynn Wyatt, Janet and Paul Hobby, Leslie Elkins Sasser and Shannon Sasser, Louisa Stude Sarofim, Janie C. Lee and David Warren, Anne and Peter Brown, Marilyn Oshman and Alvin Lubetkin, Marcy Taub and Thomas Wessel, Melanie Gray and Mark Wawro, Michael Zilkha, Joa Baldinger Friedrich and Heiner Friedrich, Philippe Vergne, Mel Chin, Lyle Ashton Harris, Emily Pulitzer, Zina Saro-Wiwa, Ashton Hawkins, Allison Sarofim and Hamish Bowles**.

Each of the evening's chairs was accompanied by her husband: **James Crane, Keith Spickelmier, Ransom Lummis, Francois de Menil, and Harry Pinson.** Other members of the de Menil family were also in attendance. **Lois and George de Menil** joined their son **Benjamin** for the festivities, as did two of Susan and Francois's children, **Sophie and Conrad.** Also raising glasses to the museum built by Dominique de Menil to house the collection she started with her husband John were **Adelaide de Menil Carpenter, and Fariha Friedrich Karimnia (with her daughter Duha Friedrich, and son Aziz, with his wife Andee).**

Guests dined on a menu featuring brace of stuffed quail and butternut squash purée, presented by Jackson and Company, while sipping Domaine Pierre Labet Bourgogne 2009 white burgundy or red burgundy and Piper Heidsieck Brut Champagne. Dancing followed, to the music of Party on the Moon. Throughout the evening, guests bid in a silent auction on works donated for the occasion by renowned artists associated with the Menil Collection, including **Maurizio Cattelan, Vija Celmins, Christo, Walter De Maria, Mark di Suvero, Marlene Dumas, Olafur Eliasson, Robert Gober, Brice Marden, Claes Oldenburg and Coosje Van Bruggen, Edward Ruscha, Richard Serra, and Luc Tuymans.**

The anniversary events continue all weekend

The weekend celebrations continued with Saturday-night's "Bleu Électrique", for Menil Contemporaries, the museum's burgeoning membership group for young professionals. Chaired by **Linsay and Jeremy Radcliffe, Isabel and Danny David, and Kelly and Russell Hamman,** the event drew more than 500 to the Menil for a dance that started with a performance by [Urban Souls Dance Company](#), leading partygoers from the museum galleries to the gala tent. Celebrated lady **DJ Kalkutta** kept more than 500 guests dancing for hours. A fund-raising success, "Bleu Electrique" added another \$115,000 to museum coffers.

On Sunday afternoon an audience of more than 1,000 made their way to the Menil to hear the composer Philip Glass perform in a free public concert, which concluded with a new étude, honoring the Menil Collection's 25th year.

All anniversary events took place in a great tent on the museum's lawn.

Images:

For photographs of the event, please visit <http://ftp.rudermann.com>.

Login and password: MenilPress (case sensitive).

[All photos should be credited to The Menil Collection]

Contact:

Vance Muse or Gretchen Sammons

Menil Press Office

713 535 3170

press@menil.org

www.menil.org