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Hollywood
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LAXART Benefit Auction and Party Draws Mara Akil, 'Grey's' Jesse Williams

7:23 PM PST 11/7/2013 by Degen Pener

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[Email \(#\)](#)[Print \(/print/654529\)](#)[Comments](#)<http://j.mp/1bq8W8u#>*Vivca Paulin-Ferrell and Lauri Firstenberg**Stefanie Keenan/Coutresy of LAXART*

The Nov. 6 auction and benefit held at the Brick Building collected \$550,000 in bids to benefit

director-curator **Lauri Firstenberg's** independent nonprofit art space.

There was spirited bidding at the fifth biennial benefit auction Wednesday, Nov. 6, for LAXART, which raised upward of \$600,000 for the independent nonprofit art space in Culver City, Calif. With auctioneer **Viveca Paulin-Ferrell** leading the live auction, a bidding war broke out between writer-producer **Mara Akil** (*The Game*, *Sparkle*, *Cougar Town*) and LAXART board member **Andrew Franklin** for a painting – with the word Lakers on it – by L.A. artist **Jonas Wood**, part of his athlete series. Franklin, bidding by phone, took home the piece.

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STORY: The Hollywood Reporter Reveals the Industry's Top 25 Art Collectors (<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/lists/hollywood-reporter-reveals-industrys-top-651911>)

Chaired by **Candace Nelson**, **Iris Marden** and **Jennifer Hawks**, the event, held at the Brick Building event spaces, raised money to support the group's cutting-edge exhibitions which have helped incubate the work of **Anna Sew Hoy**, **Ruben Ochoa**, **Patricia Fernandez** and **Joel Kyack**. Prior to the event, auction items were listed on online auction website Paddle8, which had already drummed up \$250,000 in bids. The partnership created an instant floor for many auction items. "A quarter of a million dollars is transferred onto the floor tonight," said LAXART director-curator **Lauri Firstenberg**. The contemporary art space, founded in 2005, has just opened a show of work by hot L.A. artist Sam Falls, whose work is collected by actor **Orlando Bloom**. A painting by Falls, as well as pieces by **Wade Guyton**, **Mary Weatherford**, **Alex Israel**, **Wyatt Kahn**, **Lucien Smith** and **Dashiell Manley**, were included in the benefit sale. Falls' painting went for \$27,000. "LAXART works with some of the most talented and cutting-edge artists in the world today," said Resolution talent agent **Adam Kanter**, whose wife Brooke serves on the group's board.

STORY: Hollywood Art: Secrets from A-List Art Advisers (<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/hollywood-art-secrets-a-list-651468>)

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Spotted during the Samsung-sponsored night were art advisor **Karyn Lovegrove**, **Ariana Lambert Smeraldo** of West Hollywood's Lily Lodge flowers, former A & R exec **Ron Handler**, all board members, plus collectors **Jarl** (founder of E!) and **Pamela Mohn**, entertainment attorney **Jake Bloom** and wife Ruth, producer **Josh Roth** and wife **Sonya**, and **Rosette Delug**. Also making the scene were ForYourArt founder **Bettina Korek**, artist **Glenn Kaino** (also svp digital at OWN, the Oprah Winfrey Network) and actor-producer-director **Fred Savage**, with wife **Jennifer Stone**, and *Grey's Anatomy* actor **Jesse Williams**.

Added film and music producer **Michael Ostin**, the former president of DreamWorks Records, whose wife Joyce serves on the board: "I think the caliber of work that Lauri was able to collect for this auction is pretty amazing and a testament to the great work that LAXART does. She's a patron of the arts, she supports and enables young artists to do work. She does terrific exhibits for a lot of emerging and up-and-coming artists. I'm happy to be here." The couple are devoted art collectors. As far as how he chooses what to buy: "It's a combination of gut instinct and research. You gotta love it because you want to live with it. But there's also a business aspect to it. You want to make wise investments. I love having my investments live on the wall. so that I can see them and appreciate them every day."

Raunchy Essay on L.A. »)



(<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/gallery/hollywoods-top-art-collectors-pose-651988>)

Hollywood's Top Art Collectors Pose With L.A.'s Hottest Artists

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Stefanie Keenan/Coutresy of LAXART

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