



PRESENTS

*RENDERING HOMAGE:  
PORTRAITS OF A PATRON*

May 20 through August 28, 2016



**48 PORTRAITS**  
CREATED BETWEEN 1953 AND 2013  
OF  
LOS ANGELES ART PATRON & COLLECTOR  
**JOAN AGAJANIAN QUINN**

Curated by  
Michele Ellis Pracy and Kristina Hornback  
Fresno Art Museum

Special thank you to John J. Quinn, Amanda Quinn Olivar, and Cheryl Bookout

[FresnoArtMuseum.org](http://FresnoArtMuseum.org)

# SCOPE OF EXHIBITION

Los Angeles art patron, collector, and arts advocate Joan Agajanian Quinn, has been depicted in portraiture for over six decades by world-renowned artists at the forefront of their era, medium, and impact upon the contemporary art scene.



Andy Warhol, Joan Quinn, and Mick Jagger, c. 1970s

The exhibition *RENDERING HOMAGE: Portraits of a Patron* is a selection of artworks depicting her visage, created for her by artists she has championed over time. Forty-eight two- and three-dimensional pieces from Quinn's collection of over 300 portraits tell the story of her passion for cutting-edge American artists through their portrayals of her as their valkyrie.

Bay Area painter Mel Ramos describes Joan as "a living work of art." This exhibition serves to herald her in this light, in addition to revealing her treasured artist friendships and her instinctual certainty of their relevance to 20th and 21st century contemporary art history. This is an exhibition paying homage to an art patron, sincerely appreciated.



Jack Quinn, Frank Gehry, Joan Quinn, Zandra Rhodes, 1976

The exhibited portraits are realized in all mediums and span six decades of Quinn's relationships with artists she has believed in and supported. The exhibition includes works by Peter Alexander, Charles Arnaldi, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Laddie John Dill, Claire Falkenstein, Sophia Gasparian, Frank Gehry, Robert Graham, David Hockney, George Hurrell, E.F. Kitchen, Marie Lalanne,

Robert Mapplethorpe, Ed Moses, Mel Ramos, Zandra Rhodes, Ed Ruscha, Alexis Smith, and Beatrice Wood, among others.



Sophia Gasparian, 2004, mixed media on board, 20" x 15"

Nationally and internationally known artists portray their patron as a powerful art world personage: an advocate who is true to herself, the artists, and the art she loves.



Quinn Family by Lloyd Ziff: Jack Quinn, Joan Quinn, Georgia Quinn Gowey, Jennifer Quinn Gowey, Paloma Quinn Gowey, and Amanda Quinn Olivar, 2011

On the front:  
Robert Mapplethorpe,  
1986, gelatin silver  
print, 29" x 24"



David Hockney, 1991, Polaroid and Xerox collage, 34" x 17"

“Though I’ve played the role of a temporary muse, I consider myself as merely the subject matter, and I’ve always been fascinated to see how these incredible artists interpret what they see in me. And it’s not an ego-driven fascination. In fact, I want to see the hand of the artist in their pieces --not my own visage. Therein lies the difference.”

— Joan Agajanian Quinn



John Carr, 1953, oil on canvas, 24” x 30”

**Joan Agajanian Quinn** was born in Los Angeles, California, the daughter of Hazel Faye Stepanian and the famous race car promoter J.C. Agajanian. Both of her parents had a love for the arts which they instilled in Joan and her siblings. “My Dad loved the artists, and they loved my father. He liked to throw big parties and invite all the artists for dinner to mix with his other guests like lawyers, judges, and friends in the sports field,” Joan has recounted.

Joan graduated from the Westlake School for Girls (now, the Harvard-Westlake School) and the University of Southern California, where she majored in Education and Journalism. After working for several years as a teacher, she changed to a career in journalism when she became the West Coast Editor of Andy Warhol’s magazine *Interview*. She continued in that career path as Society Editor of Hearst’s *Los Angeles Herald Examiner*, followed by staff positions with *Condé Nast Traveler* and *House & Garden*. Since 1993, Joan has had a cable television show, *The Joan Quinn Profiles*, which has aired from California to New York. In over 1,000 episodes, she has interviewed people in the arts and entertainment fields. She also wrote a column for *Art Talk* and *ArtRevue* magazine, as well as freelancing for several local and national Armenian newspapers.

In February 2016, Joan was honored as the longest sitting member appointed to the California Arts Council. She has served two terms each on The Beverly Hills Fine Art Commission, The Beverly Hills Architectural Commission, and the California Film Commission. Joan continues her work as a Trustee of the Armenian Library and Museum of America in Boston and of the Pilgrim School in Los Angeles. She has served on the board of public television’s KCET Women’s Council and is a primary NGO delegate to the United Nations where she represents AIWA, the Armenian International Women’s Association.

Joan and her husband, attorney John J. Quinn, have twin daughters Amanda Quinn Olivar and Jennifer Quinn Gowey, and granddaughters Paloma and Georgia.

“She has documented cultural changes in Los Angeles and around the world for the last 50 years.... Joan always has her finger on the pulse of artistic momentum.”

— Charles Arnoldi





Eugene Jardin, 1991, epoxy resin sculpture, 66" x 24"

**The Fresno Art Museum and Joan Agajanian Quinn thank the following sponsors of this exhibition:**

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“Joan Quinn is similar to a Los Angeles landmark. The only difference: she’s more effusive and laughs a lot more than either the Griffith Park Observatory or the Hollywood sign.”

— from Charles Scheips’ essay “Portraits of Joan”



Rupert Jasen Smith, 1988, original Polaroid by Andy Warhol, reproduced and painted by Smith, 44" x 44"



Ted Allan, mid-1980s, gelatin silver print, 18" x 21.5"