BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART

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BLANTON MUSEUM TO RECEIVE A GIFT OF CONTEMPORARY LATIN AMERICAN ART FROM THE COLECCIÓN PATRICIA PHELPS DE CISNEROS

AUSTIN, Texas—January 10, 2018—The Blanton Museum of Art at The University of Texas at Austin will receive a gift of 45 works of contemporary art from The Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros (CPPC), bolstering the Blanton’s acclaimed collection of Latin American art. The Blanton is one of six major international institutions to receive a gift of contemporary Latin American art from the CPPC. Following their generous donation of colonial art to the Blanton in the summer of 2017, the CPPC’s gift will deepen and diversify the Blanton’s collection while creating new opportunities for the museum’s varied audiences to access and appreciate art from Latin America.

The Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros’ mission is to advance scholarship and enhance the appreciation of the diversity, sophistication, and range of art from Latin America. This donation to the Blanton Museum of Art is part of a global initiative that encompasses six international institutions with whom the CPPC has a long association and a shared mission to increase knowledge about art from Latin America in a global context. The gifts have been selected in collaboration with each museum to amplify and strengthen their holdings, while introducing new voices and artists into their collections. The other five institutions are The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York; the Museo de Arte de Lima (MALI); the Museo de Arte Moderno de Buenos Aires; the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid; and the Bronx Museum of the Arts, New York.

“The Blanton is known for its longstanding and comprehensive collection of art from Latin America and for its dedication to furthering scholarship and interdisciplinary study in the field of Latin American art. This latest gift, on the heels of a gift of Colonial art in 2017, will expand the Blanton’s burgeoning
collection of contemporary art from Latin America and further its mission to showcase the diversity of artistic traditions in the region,” said Patricia Phelps de Cisneros.

The donation will bring new artists—only three of the gift’s twenty artists are currently represented in the Blanton’s permanent collection—to the Blanton. With works from eight Latin American and Caribbean countries and a particular focus on Venezuela, the new pieces will expand the geographic diversity of the Blanton’s holdings and enable the museum to offer a nuanced view of artistic production in modern and contemporary Latin America. Significant artists represented include Mateo Manuare, Claudio Perna, Leda Catunda, Mariana Castillo Deball, and Mateo López.

The gift also builds upon the museum and the university’s rich legacy of research and scholarship in the field of Latin American studies. The Blanton has one of the oldest and most extensive collections of Latin American art in the United States, and in 1988, the museum became the first in the United States to establish a curatorial position devoted solely to this field. The University of Texas at Austin is home to the one of the country’s oldest Latin American studies programs, the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies (LLILIAS), as well as the largest university research collection on Latin America in the United States, the Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection. Contributing to the university and the museum’s strengths in Latin American studies, the CPPC’s gift will become a cornerstone of the Blanton’s robust teaching collection and offer new possibilities for campus-wide collaboration across all disciplines and departments.

“The Blanton is honored to receive this gift from the CPPC, which will expand our collection of contemporary Latin American art,” said Director Simone Wicha. “As leaders in the exhibition and study of art from Latin America, we look forward to being able to illuminate new connections in our collection and to offer opportunities for diverse audiences to learn about and appreciate Latin American art.”

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**About the Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros**

Founded in the 1970s by Patricia Phelps de Cisneros and Gustavo A. Cisneros, the Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros (CPPC) is one of the core cultural and educational initiatives of the Fundación Cisneros. Based in New York City and Caracas, the CPPC’s mission is to promote scholarship and enhance appreciation of the diversity, sophistication, and range of art from Latin America. The CPPC achieves these goals through the preservation, presentation, and study of the material culture of the Ibero-American world—ranging from the ethnographic to the contemporary. The CPPC’s activities include exhibitions, public programs, publications, grants for scholarly research and artistic production. The CPPC’s website offers a platform for debate concerning the contributions of Latin America to the world of art and culture. Its inspiration and launching point is the Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros, but its ambition is discovery, and its mission is to weave a multi-lingual, virtual network for people and ideas www.coleccioncisneros.org Twitter: @CPPCisneros Facebook: /cisneroscollection

**About the Blanton Museum of Art**

Founded in 1963, the Blanton Museum of Art holds the largest public collection in Central Texas with nearly 18,000 objects. Recognized for its modern and contemporary American and Latin American art, Italian Renaissance and Baroque paintings, and encyclopedic collection of prints and drawings, the Blanton offers thought provoking, visually arresting, and personally moving encounters with art.
The museum is located at the intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Congress Avenue and is open Tuesday through Friday from 10–5, Saturday from 11–5, and Sunday from 1–5. Thursdays are free admission days and every third Thursday the museum is open until 9. Admission Prices: Adults $9, Kids 12 and under FREE, Seniors (65+) $7, Youth/College Students (13–21) $5. Admission is free to members, all current UT ID-holders. For additional information call (512) 471–7324 or visit blantonmuseum.org

Image Caption:
Juan Iribarren (Venezuela, b. 1956)
*Morado sobre amarillo 1 [Purple over Yellow 1], 1997*
Oil on canvas
127.6 x 198.1 cm (50 1/4 x 78 in.)
Gift of Patricia Phelps de Cisneros in honor of Luis Enrique Pérez-Oramas