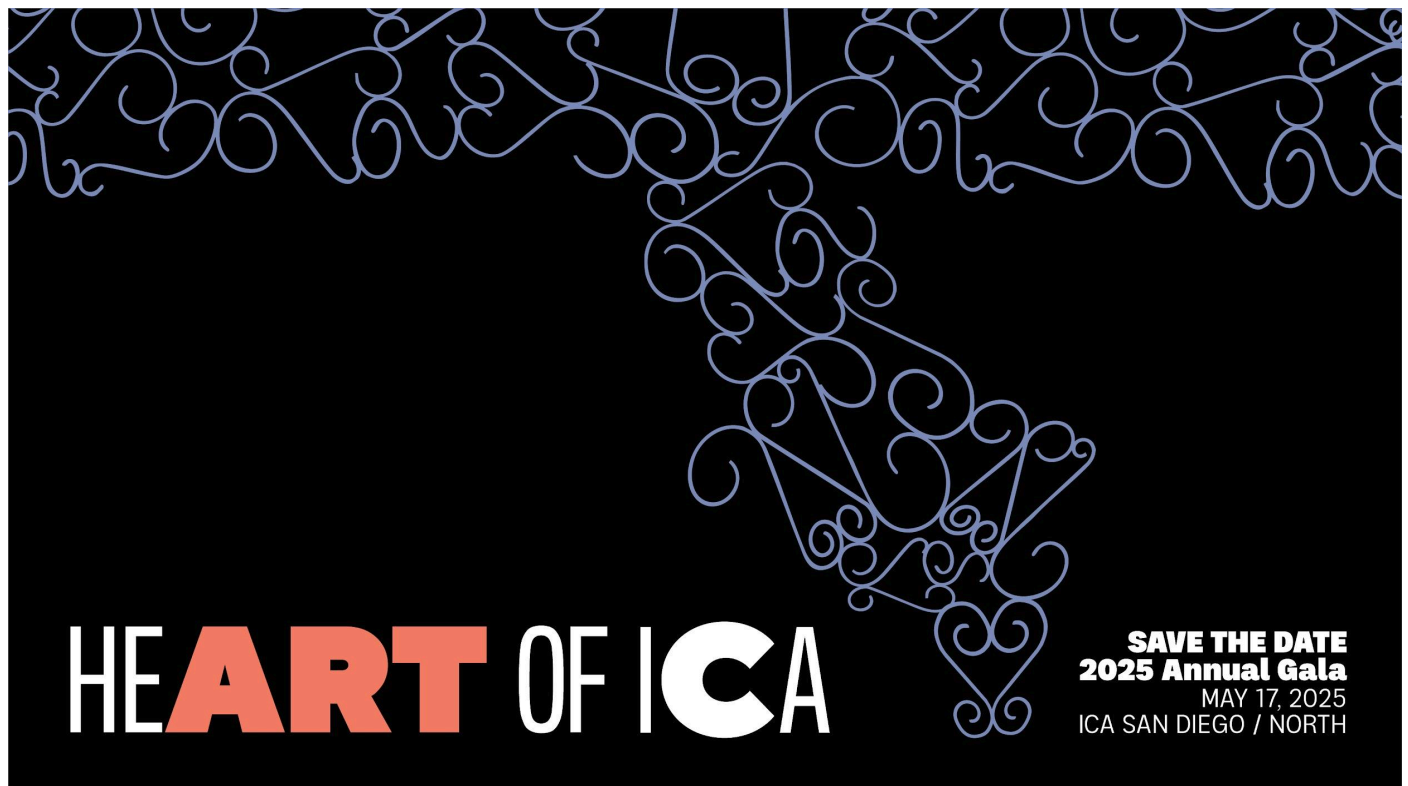


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 18, 2025

5th Annual Gala Celebrates Community, Raises Funds to Build Vibrant Arts Ecosystem

*ICA San Diego's fundraising gala to benefit contemporary art exhibitions and
programs on May 17 at ICA / North in Encinitas*



ENCINITAS, Calif. (April 18, 2025) — Institute of Contemporary Art, San Diego (ICA San Diego) will host its 5th annual Gala on Saturday, May 17. The evening will take place across ICA San Diego / North's campus in Encinitas. Funds raised during its Live Auction, Paddle Raise, and Silent Auction will benefit its contemporary art exhibitions by local and international artists, and outreach programs to San Diego County schools and seniors.

Amid the current administration's [shifting financial priorities](#) away from museum funding, the announcement highlights the support arts organizations like ICA San Diego need to continue making a positive impact on the community.

"Although that funding represents five percent of the budget, that impacts the innovative programming we have planned for our community both this year and next," said Andrew Utt, Executive Director of ICA San Diego.

Funds raised during the Gala will also support continued [free admission](#) to its locations in Balboa Park and Encinitas.

An Evening in The Garden

Guests will gather in the Garden to the music of DJ and Violinist duo [Pepper & Pocket](#) before dinner by [Pamplemousse Grille](#). Throughout the event, guests will have the opportunity to browse its current exhibition by 2024 Artists-in-Residence [Ethan Chan & David Peña](#), [Heavy as Ghosts](#). Additionally, guests are invited to enjoy a cacao experience by [Maya Moon Collective](#), tarot reading by [Gaia Lifestyle Curation](#), to receive a typewritten haiku by [Haikuists](#), photo opportunities, view a wheel throwing demonstration by ICA's [Ceramics Lab](#), and more.

Live Auction and Paddle Raise

These experiences will lead into the fundraising portion of the event, beginning with a Live Auction. Featured lots include luxurious multi-night stays in London and NYC, a private dinner for 24 guests at Pamplemousse Grille, and more. The evening then moves to the Paddle Raise to fund programs that provide financial and professional development resources to local artists, bring art directly to San Diego County schools, and continue to support free admission to ICA San Diego's Balboa Park and Encinitas locations.

VIP Reception

A VIP reception will feature early entry to the Gala, welcome beverages, and special performances by [LITVAKdance](#). VIP+, VIP, and General Admission tickets are available now at: <https://icasandiego.org/heart-of-ica-gala/>

Silent Auction Open to Public

ICA San Diego will also host a Silent Auction scheduled to open May 5. The Silent Auction is open to the public and will feature a variety of items, including weekend stays in upscale accommodations in Puerto Vallarta, private in-home wine tasting experiences hosted by a dedicated sommelier, tickets to a San Diego Padres baseball game with Lexus Club House access, and more.

On Healing, 2025 Exhibition Season

This year's Gala theme, HeART of ICA, is inspired by its 2025 exhibition season, *On Healing*. The season celebrates our connection to others and finding new ways to heal through the arts. *On Healing* considers healing from a variety of perspectives including physical and mental health; networks of care; spiritual healing; healing practices of past, future, or fictional societies; and healing as a process or journey.

Who:

ICA San Diego

What:

5th Annual HeART of ICA Gala

When:

Saturday, May 17, 2025 (6:00pm-10:00pm, VIP entry - 5:00pm)

Where:

ICA San Diego / North, 1550 S El Camino Real, Encinitas, CA 92024

The [HeART of ICA San Diego Gala](#) is made possible thanks to our sponsors: Linda Brandes Foundation, [Capstone Advisors](#), [US Bank](#), and [Lido Advisors](#). ICA San Diego also thanks the Gala Committee: Fredy Garcia (Gala Chair), Lainey Gaura, Kate Lindberg, Holly Tullar, and Dede Watson. ICA San Diego also thanks our media sponsor, [Ranch & Coast](#).

ICA San Diego is accepting requests for tables and sponsors at:

<https://icasandiego.org/heart-of-ica-gala/>

For more information, visit www.icasandiego.org

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About the Institute of Contemporary Art San Diego

ICA San Diego is a living laboratory for expanding the transformational power of art to build vibrant communities. Founded in 2021, yet built on over 100 years of combined experience, our programming is cutting edge yet accessible; daring and thoughtful; challenging and inviting.

Our exhibitions, installations, commissions, classes, and workshops reflect ICA San Diego's commitment to engage the issues of the moment and provide a space for the community to come together and consider the world in which we live. ICA San Diego welcomes everyone to gather, learn, question, and experience the new. There is no admission fee to visit our exhibitions, and donations are welcome. To help ICA San Diego reduce barriers to contemporary art, visit <https://icasandiego.org/donate/>.

ICA San Diego / Central is located at 1439 El Prado in Balboa Park.

ICA San Diego / North is located at 1550 S. El Camino Real in Encinitas.

ICA PLACE TO BE. ICA **SAN
DIEGO**