

Joan Mitchell Foundation Adds Finance Veteran Marc Chennault to Its Board

NEW YORK, NY—June 23, 2020—The Joan Mitchell Foundation announced today the appointment of Marc Chennault to its Board of Directors for a three-year term. Chennault, who brings 20 years of private investment experience, has been advising the Foundation’s Finance Committee since 2017, and his formal appointment to the Board recognizes and expands his leadership role. Chennault currently serves as a Senior Advisor at Cherokee Acquisition LLC, and additionally sits on the Board of The Reciprocity Foundation, a New York-based non-profit focused on holistic health programs for New Yorkers facing homelessness, incarceration, and trauma. The announcement follows the Foundation’s appointment of artist Paul Ramírez Jonas to the Board in February 2020.

“Marc has been an incredible partner over the last three years, offering invaluable guidance and insight to our Finance Committee,” said Christa Blatchford, the CEO of the Joan Mitchell Foundation. “Equally, Marc brings a deep appreciation for the arts and a shared commitment to supporting the lives and careers of artists. As the Foundation navigates the economic uncertainty of the current moment, we know that Marc’s expertise as well as his enthusiasm for our mission will be essential to our ongoing success. We look forward to welcoming him to our team and broadening our work together.”

Prior to taking his position as Senior Advisor at Cherokee Acquisition LLC in 2020, Chennault held investment, advisory, and sales and trading roles at S.G. Preston Company, Macquarie Capital (USA) Inc., Citadel Securities LLC, and Morgan Stanley in the United States and Europe. He holds an MBA from Harvard Business School, and Master of Accounting and Bachelor of Business Administration (with Honors) degrees from the University of Michigan. A native of Detroit, Chennault previously served as an advisor to the Heidelberg Project, an outdoor art environment established by painter and sculptor Tyree Guyton to enhance neighborhood life through art.

“I have always believed in the value and importance of art and artists to public life,” said Chennault. “In these challenging times, the Joan Mitchell Foundation’s mission of supporting artist communities feels even more essential. I have very much enjoyed my work with the Foundation to-date, and am looking forward to further supporting its work and vision.”

Members of the Board of Directors of the Joan Mitchell Foundation serve three-year terms, with a maximum of two consecutive terms. The current Board members include Ronald Bechet, President; Jean Shin, Vice-President; Juan Sánchez, Secretary; Sandy S. Lee, Treasurer; Theodore S. Berger; Kemi Ilesanmi; Miranda Lash; Paul Ramírez Jonas; Michele Tortorelli; and Linda Usdin, Dr.PH.

Additionally, the Board has seven Emeritus members: Alejandro Anreus, PhD, Board President Emeritus; Dan Bergman, Board President Emeritus; Tomie Arai, Director Emeritus; John Koos, Director Emeritus; Tyrone Mitchell, Director Emeritus; Yolanda Shashaty, Director Emeritus; and Carolyn Somers, Founding Member & Executive Director Emeritus. All were appointed to Emeritus status in recognition of their many years of service and commitment to the Foundation.

About the Joan Mitchell Foundation

The Joan Mitchell Foundation celebrates the life of abstract artist Joan Mitchell by expanding awareness of her pioneering work and fulfilling her wish to support and provide opportunities for visual artists. Through grants, residencies, and related initiatives, the Foundation advances the work of today's artists and amplifies their essential contributions to communities around the world.

As the chief steward of Joan Mitchell's legacy, the Foundation manages a collection of Mitchell's artwork and archives containing her personal papers, photographs, and ephemera. The Foundation provides loans of Mitchell artworks from its collection to museums, academic institutions, and other non-profit arts spaces. Foundation staff are dedicated to assisting researchers and sharing information about the Foundation's artwork and archival collections in order to further scholarship and broad appreciation for Mitchell's life and work. The Foundation is also supporting the Joan Mitchell Catalogue Raisonné, established in 2015, which is currently researching Mitchell's paintings in order to produce a scholarly, multi-volume book documenting all of the artist's known painted work.

Fulfilling Mitchell's mandate to "aid and assist" living artists, over the past 27 years the Foundation has evolved a range of initiatives that directly support visual artists at varying stages of their careers. The Foundation's grant programs include the annual Painters & Sculptors Grants, which provide 25 artists with unrestricted funds of \$25,000, and Emergency Grants for disaster recovery, currently committed for 2020 to the [Artist Relief](#) initiative, a response to the COVID-19 crisis. The New Orleans-based Joan Mitchell Center hosts residencies for national and local artists, as well as artist talks, open studio events, and other public programs that encourage dialogue and exchange with the local community. The Creating a Living Legacy (CALL) initiative provides free and essential resources to help artists of all ages organize, document, and manage their artworks and careers. Together, these programs, along with additional professional support services, actively engage with working artists as they develop and expand their practices.

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