

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

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**THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO RECEIVES MAJOR GIFT FROM  
JAHARIS FAMILY FOUNDATION**

**\$10 Million to Support Museum's Presentation of Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Collection  
Gift Includes Funds for Programs, Renovations, Acquisitions**

Chicago, February 28, 2011—The Art Institute of Chicago announces today a **gift of \$10 million** from the **Jaharis Family Foundation, Inc.**, in support of the museum's collection and presentation of **Greek, Roman, and Byzantine art**. This is the largest gift ever received by the museum made in support of the arts of the Ancient Mediterranean and Byzantine worlds—a curatorial department led by Karen Manchester, the Chair and Elizabeth McIlvaine Curator of Ancient and Byzantine Art—and will be used over the next couple of years to renovate and permanently reinstall the galleries in which Greek, Roman, and Byzantine art are displayed as well as to enhance the museum's acquisitions, exhibitions, and educational programs in these areas.

"The extraordinary commitment of the Jaharis Family Foundation to the Art Institute's collection of Greek, Roman, and Byzantine art will have an enduring impact on our presentation of these works of art," said James Cuno, President and Eloise W. Martin Director of the Art Institute of Chicago. "Their generous gift allows us to continue the revitalization of all departments of the museum, which we began in 2006, by now turning our attention to what is fundamentally the bedrock of Western artistic expression and some of the oldest works of art in our encyclopedic collection."

The Jaharis Family Foundation gift will be devoted to a revitalization of all aspects of the curatorial program related to Greek, Roman, and Byzantine art, including, but not limited to, the renovation and expansion of the galleries encompassing all of the upper level of McKinlock Court on the museum's east side; the acquisition of works of art to enhance the collection; the pursuit of special exhibitions

and loans of significant works of Greek, Roman, and Byzantine art to the Art Institute; and a wide variety of educational initiatives to support the collection, including lectures, scholarly partnerships, symposia, and teacher training programs.

Mary and Michael Jaharis support many cultural, religious, higher education, and medical research institutions through the Jaharis Family Foundation. They both have long-standing Chicago connections. Mary Jaharis was born in Wisconsin, spent much of her early childhood in Athens, Greece and later moved to Chicago, where she completed middle school and high school. She attended Northwestern University, graduated from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago with a degree in Fine Arts, and later studied at the New York School of Interior Design. She is on the Board of Directors of the Jaharis Family Foundation, an Honorary Trustee of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and on the Board of the St. Catherine's Foundation, an organization overseeing the restoration of the St. Catherine Monastery in the Sinai Desert. Mrs. Jaharis is Life Trustee of the Art Institute of Chicago as well as a previous Sustaining Fellow. She is also an active member of the Philoptochos Society, a women's philanthropic organization affiliated with the Greek Orthodox Church, and has long been involved in programs to improve the lives of economically disadvantaged families and children. Most recently, Mrs. Jaharis was honored by Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (Brookline, MA) for founding the Mary Jaharis Center for Byzantine Art and Culture, a premiere international study center for scholarly research and public programs.

Michael Jaharis, a native of Chicago and son of Greek immigrants, received his law degree from the DePaul University College of Law and entered the pharmaceutical industry. He was the founder and chairman of Kos Pharmaceuticals, Inc., which he sold to Abbott Laboratories, Inc. in 2006. Mr. Jaharis is currently a founder and director of Arisaph Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and a founder of Vatera Healthcare Partners LLC, a private investment firm. Mr. Jaharis is an Honorary Governing Member of the Art Institute of Chicago as well as a previous Sustaining Fellow. Mr. Jaharis also serves as Trustee Emeritus of Tufts University in Boston; Chairman of the Board of Overseers for the School of Medicine, Tufts University; Member of the Columbia University Medical Center Board of Visitors; Member of the Board of Overseers of the Weill Cornell Medical College and Graduate School of Medical Sciences; Director of The Onassis Public Benefit Foundation (USA); Founder of Faith: An Endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism; and Vice Chairman of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

Michael and Mary Jaharis live in New York City. They have two children and five grandchildren.

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**MUSEUM HOURS**

10:30 am–5:00 pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

10:30 am–8:00 pm Thursday

10:30 am–5:00 pm Saturday, Sunday

**TARGET FREE THURSDAY EVENINGS AFTER 5:00 pm**

Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

**ADMISSION**

Adults \$18.00 Includes all special exhibitions

Children 14 and over, students, and seniors \$12.00 Includes all special exhibitions

Chicago residents receive a \$2.00 discount with proof of residency

Children under 14 always free

Members always free

**Free Evenings are free to all. City of Chicago residents with Chicago Public Library cards can borrow a "Museum Passport" card from any library branch for free general admission to the nine members of Museums in the Park, including the Art Institute of Chicago.**