

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:**

Jennifer Weismann  
612-716-0556  
jennifer@owl-marketing.com

**WORLD-CLASS ART COLLECTION WILL GO ON PUBLIC DISPLAY FOR THE FIRST TIME  
AS CAFESJIAN ART TRUST OPENS NEW MUSEUM, THE CAT, IN MINN.**

*Led by former Chihuly Collection director Andy Schlauch, the CAT will open in fall 2022*

**SHOREVIEW, MINN.—** The Cafesjian Art Trust is opening a new museum where, for the first time, scholars, art lovers, students and the general public will be able to study and enjoy its world-class collection of contemporary and modern art, centered on studio art glass. The CAT (Cafesjian Art Trust) Museum, located in Shoreview, Minnesota, is expected to open in the fall of 2022.

Cafesjian Art Trust Trustee Kathie Cafesjian Baradaran, the daughter of philanthropist and art collector Gerard Cafesjian, said, “The new CAT museum sets the art my father so passionately collected within a community my parents deeply valued — St. Paul, Minn. The CAT’s special, intimate space offers an opportunity where visitors can echo Gerard Cafesjian’s own journey, discovering the beauty of modern and contemporary art and especially studio art glass, and engaging with the artist and work in a larger context. I’m so proud we’ve finally built this collection the home it deserves and look forward to sharing it with everyone.”

The approximately 3000 pieces constituting the permanent collection of the new museum include studio glass by international artists, including works by Dale Chihuly, Toots Zynsky, Stanislav Libensky and Jaroslava Brychtová, and Modern and Contemporary artwork by Arshile Gorky, Victor Vasarely, Georges Braque and many other world-renowned artists.

The renovation plan, designed by Mohagan Hansen, is creating a 20,000 square foot space for the new museum. This includes a stunning lobby installation of *Cafesjian Chandelier*, 1998, by Dale Chihuly; 5000 square feet of exhibition space; a special room adjacent to the exhibition space for the installation of *Pergola Ceiling*, 1999, by Dale Chihuly; a library and reading room; a catering and events space; modernized offices for the museum staff and a sensory-friendly quiet room.

Renovations to the site, a former engineering firm in Shoreview, Minn., will include a new parking lot, native plantings, and a 1000 square foot garden seating on the museum grounds. *Sitting Figures*, 1980 by Lynn Chadwick, and a kinetic aluminum and glass sculpture, *The Glassinator*, 2011 by Andrew Carson, will be installed in the front of the site.

The executive director of the new CAT Museum, Andy Schlauch, was formerly the executive director of the Chihuly Collection in St. Petersburg, Florida. Schlauch will curate

exhibits, provide tours, and oversee programming. “I want people in the community to feel they can engage with us, explore our exhibits– including this magnificent collection of Studio Glass– and hopefully understand that art is exciting,” said Schlauch. “We see ourselves as educators, bringing the art to the community in a more personal setting.”

The inaugural exhibit is planned to showcase the artwork of Dale Chihuly and the special friendship between Gerard Cafesjian and the artist. The second exhibit, Highlights of the Cafesjian Art Trust Museum Collection, will feature works that span mediums and styles, including paintings, sculptures, and decorative art objects from the permanent collection.

The Cafesjian Art Trust Museum (The CAT) is a museum and educational center displaying the private collection of art lover and philanthropist Gerard Cafesjian. The CAT, supported by a private nonprofit 501(c)(3) foundation established in 2016, is located at 4600 Churchill Street, Shoreview, Minnesota. For more, visit [cafesjianarttrust.org](http://cafesjianarttrust.org).

###