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WORLD-CLASS ART COLLECTION CAFESJIAN ART TRUST EXTENDS POPULAR FIRST EXHIBIT

*Opening exhibit extended through April 29, 2023 due to overwhelming demand;
Show highlights friendship between Dale Chihuly and Gerard Cafesjian*

SHOREVIEW, MINN.— January 4, 2023 — Due to overwhelming popular demand, the Cafesjian Art Trust (CAT) will extend its opening exhibit, “A Lasting Friendship, Gerard Cafesjian and Dale Chihuly,” through April 29, 2023.

The new contemporary art museum’s inaugural installation showcases the artwork of Dale Chihuly and celebrates his 30-year friendship with the CAT’s founding collector, Gerard Cafesjian. Interspersed among Chihuly’s iconic glass masterpieces are decades worth of correspondences between the two men, as well as other ephemera that exist as a testament to a deep and enduring friendship. Written letters, faxes and other notes allude to the works themselves, and provide a personal, intimate glimpse into the connection of these two dynamic, driven personalities. The show also features informal drawings, often done on table linens from dinners or lunches that Chihuly and Cafesjian enjoyed together.

Executive director of the CAT, Andy Schlauch, says “We’ve been *bowled over* by the public’s enthusiasm for our new museum. And because we booked out so far in advance so quickly, it made sense to extend ‘A Lasting Friendship.’ We want to give as many people as possible the opportunity to enjoy this unique installation before we move to our next show, ‘Highlights of the Cafesjian Art Trust Collection,’ now slated for June.”

The CAT is a free museum where scholars, art lovers, students and the general public can study and enjoy its world-class collection of contemporary and modern art, including a large collection of studio art glass. The CAT Museum, located at 4600 Churchill Street in Shoreview, Minn., is available for reservation-required, guided tours, at cafesjianarttrust.org. The museum will be closed from April 30-May 31 to install the next exhibition, ‘Highlights of the Collection,’ which will open June 1. The next exhibits in 2023 and 2024 will be:

- Highlights of the Collection — June 1, 2023 through late October
- Fooling the Eye: Optics of Vasarely and Kuhn — November 2, 2023 through May 4, 2024

The approximately 3000 pieces that make up the permanent collection of the CAT include studio glass by international artists, with works by Dale Chihuly, Mary Ann ‘Toots’ Zynsky, Stanislav Libenský and Jaroslava Brychtová, and Modern and Contemporary

artwork by Arshile Gorky, Victor Vasarely, Georges Braque and many other world-renowned artists.

The CAT includes a lobby installation of *Cafesjian Chandelier*, 1994, 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. The museum is open Thursday-Saturday for tours by reservation only, and visitors may reserve space on guided public tours those days at 10:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m. Tours may be scheduled online at cafesjianarttrust.org or by calling 612.359.8991.

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, Minn. For more, visit cafesjianarttrust.org.

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