

LEISA AUSTIN Curriculum Vitae

PROFESSIONAL

Leisa Austin moved to the Desert from Dallas, Texas in the late eighties where she had worked as an art consultant. Projects included placements within the esteemed Trammell Crow collection, monumental commissions for Children's Medical Center and curatorial responsibilities for the newly built headquarters of Tropicana Products in Bradenton, Florida.

After relocating to the Desert, she opened the original Imago Galleries in downtown Palm Springs in 1991. In 1994, the gallery relocated to El Paseo before purchasing land to build her own space in 1999. The result is a nearly 18,000 square foot space complete with sculpture garden and terrace, which is often described more as a boutique museum than retail gallery due to its significant architectural impact and scale. Imago Galleries exhibits the works of nationally and internationally recognized artists, such as Arman, Jennifer Bartlett, Dale Chihuly, Robert Graham, Peter Halley, Dennis Hopper, Ed Moses, Mel Ramos, Donald Sultan, William Wegman and Tom Wesselmann, among others. Leisa also sits on the advisory committee of the Palm Springs Art Fair, which takes place during Modernism week in February each year.

EDUCATION

Attended East Central University, Ada, Oklahoma; active member of the Phi Theta chapter of Chi Omega sorority; Graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1982 from the School of Journalism with a Bachelor of Arts degree in News Communications. Activities and Honors: Awarded the Chi Omega social sorority White Carnation award recognizing the outstanding senior member.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Leisa sits on the board of the Barbara Sinatra Children's Center at Eisenhower Medical Center, and has performed as a mentor to a child in a program coordinated by the Palm Springs Art Museum

and the local public school system. As a benefactor to Stop Cancer/Los Angeles, IMAGO Galleries has raised more than \$1,000,000 in an annual art event. Leisa is an active member of the President's Circle and the Contemporary Art Council of the Palm Springs Art Museum, as well as founding president of the Museum Young Professionals, and co-chaired the Artists & Legends gala, bringing together Dennis Hopper, Frank Gehry and Ed Ruscha as honorees. Leisa held a position on the board of Wheaton Village in Millville, New Jersey and spent two years as an active member of the Junior League of the Desert, which included volunteer work in the Pediatric Unit of Desert Regional Medical Center in Palm Springs.

CHARITABLE DONATIONS

In addition to those organizations listed above, Leisa actively supports the Palm Springs International Film Festival, Desert Aids Project where she is a member of the 100 Women Club, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation/Seattle, Chi Omega Foundation, and Guide Dogs of the Desert, among others.