USC Fisher Museum of Art proudly presents *Charles Arnoldi | Four Decades*, a survey of the versatile and prolific Venice Beach artist, which traces the evolution of the artist’s expansive and materials-focused practice from the 1970s to the present.

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**Los Angeles, December 3, 2019**- USC Fisher Museum of Art proudly announces *Charles Arnoldi | Four Decades* from the Collection of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation, a survey of Venice Beach artist Charles (Chuck) Arnoldi. The

Charles Arnoldi was a young man from Dayton, Ohio who had seen little of the world when he arrived in Southern California in the mid 1960s. Following stints at a local community college and Chouinard Art Institute, Arnoldi won LACMA’s New or Young Talent Award in 1969 and thus began his ever-evolving career which continues to this day in his sprawling Venice studio.

For close to 50 years, Arnoldi’s work has reflected a passion for the material world, a commitment to experimentation, and a tireless focus on studio production. Charles Arnoldi | Four Decades is drawn from the holdings of the collector Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation.

“Charles Arnoldi is one of the most important artists of our time. It is a distinct pleasure to be able to showcase his vital art—in its many exciting manifestations. This exhibition is significant because it reveals the innovation and creativity that have infused Arnoldi’s art over the course of the last four decades. It also brings to the forefront a number of his recent pieces for our art-loving community to see for the first time. His paintings, prints, and sculptural works both please and surprise in their infinite variety,” said Jordan D. Schnitzer.

One of the Venice Beach artists, captured in same 1970s party photographs and spoken of in the same breath as slightly older local artists, including Ed Ruscha and Billy Al Bengston, Arnoldi has always been “the kid.” In the highly experimental Los Angeles art scene of the late 1960s and 1970s, Arnoldi established an aesthetic separate from his peers. “The exhibition traces the evolution of the artist’s practice from the seminal Sticks works of the 1970s through the aggressive physicality of the plywood-based Chainsaw works in the 1980s, into the chromatic glories of the paintings of the last two decades,” says curator Bruce Guenther. Through his use of materials, he both created within and radically redefined the two-dimensional form, making artwork at the intersection of sculpture, drawing, and painting.

“Fisher Museum of Art is proud to be the first Los Angeles museum to feature the full range of Chuck Arnoldi’s oeuvre. The spectrum of his work is far more extensive and rich than is generally appreciated and we expect this exhibition to excite his longtime admirers as well as a new generation of art lovers.” —Selma Holo, Director of USC Fisher Museum of Art.

The exhibition will be complemented by a free publication produced by the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation and authored by curator Bruce Guenther. During the run of the exhibition, the Fisher Museum will present a slate of related public programming
including curator and artist talks and a panel featuring Arnoldi and his Venice Beach peers.

**About the Artist:** Nurtured in the Southern California art scene of the late 1960s, Charles Arnoldi began his art career as the youngest member of Los Angeles’s Venice Beach scene, which included Ed Ruscha, Joe Goode, and experimental Light and Space artists such as Peter Alexander and Billy Al Bengston. Born in 1946 in Dayton, Ohio, Arnoldi attended the Chouinard Art Institute in Los Angeles briefly in the late 1960s, before establishing his own studio practice in the heart of a burgeoning art scene. His work attracted critical attention almost immediately, and by 1971 he was featured in exhibitions at prestigious galleries and institutions across the United States. Arnoldi maintains an active exhibition schedule and has been included in numerous important national and international museum exhibitions, including Documenta V (1972) in Kassel, Germany; the Whitney Biennial (1981); and the 38th Corcoran Biennial (1983). He has received numerous awards, such as the Los Angeles County Museum of Art’s Young Talent Award, two NEA Artist Fellowships in 1974 and 1982, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and a Maestro Grant from the California Arts Council. His work is collected internationally and is featured in the permanent collections of more than forty-five museums in the United States, including the Art Institute of Chicago; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Whitney Museum of American Art, in New York; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; and the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC

**About the Foundation:** The Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation was established in 1997 as a non-profit organization to manage the collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer, provide supplemental funding for education and outreach in conjunction with related exhibitions, and publish scholarly texts. The collections are conceived of as a “lending library” with its mission to loan and exhibit contemporary prints and multiples, with best practices in mind, to qualified museums to further appreciate the medium and the artists of our time. Since the program's inception, the Foundation has organized over 110 exhibitions and has art exhibited at over 150 museums.

**About the Curator:** Art historian and independent curator, Bruce Guenther is currently serving as Special Exhibitions Curator for the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education. A specialist in post-war American and European Art, Guenther was the Chief Curator and Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, Portland Art Museum, Oregon, until his retirement in 2014. Previously he was the Chief Curator at the Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, California, and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, Illinois, and head of the Modern Art Program at the Seattle Art Museum, Washington. He has curated numerous major monographic and thematic exhibitions internationally, and authored numerous books and exhibition catalogues.
About the Museum: USC Fisher Museum of Art is the oldest art museum in the city of Los Angeles founded as a free public art museum and still functioning as such in its original location. It was incorporated into the University on November 14, 1939. With a collection of over 2500 pieces of art, USC Fisher Museum’s exhibitions range from the Old Masters to the contemporary. USC Fisher Museum has a special interest in collecting and displaying the Art of the Americas, particularly Latin America. The museum is also committed to exhibitions and programming dedicated to exploring significant aspects of social justice through the visual arts.

Admission is free.

Museum Hours: Tuesday-Friday 12-5pm, Saturday 12-4pm.

Located on the USC Campus: 823 Exposition Blvd Los Angeles, CA 90089

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Image credit: Charles Arnoldi, Firepower, 2016. Oil on linen canvas, 84 x 72 in., Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation.

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