

**Manetti Shrem Video Project
Dean Atekwana Script**

Goal: Thank Maria for CA Studio giving, as well as all other impact on campus with RDS and Museum; set context for whole of stewardship video; set this up for next investment ask for Arts Renaissance at UC Davis.

Hello Maria and Jan,

On behalf of the UC Davis College of Letters and Science, I send you good wishes and gratitude. It is my honor to share how you are beginning the *arts renaissance* here at UC Davis. What was once just a discussion and vision, is now, thanks to your generous investment, becoming a reality. It is our delight and privilege to share with you some of the outcomes of your most recent gift to create the Manetti Shrem California Studio, along with the other valuable impacts you have had in the arts at UC Davis.

The practice and preservation of art is a powerful human experience. Art changes opinions, translates experiences, and transcends time. Art creates, instills, and sustains value, and influences societies. Research has shown that it is fundamental to a sense of self, and therefore fundamental to our communities, cultures, and futures.

We are thrilled that you are helping drive an *arts renaissance* here at UC Davis. Inspired by the generosity of you, Jan and Maria, UC Davis is striving to bring attention to the existing expertise and artistry in our faculty and students, to host world-renowned artists on campus for teaching and creation, and to embolden our stature as a place for artists around the world.

Forefront in this arts renaissance is the newly created Manetti Shrem California Studio – a visiting artist program created by your generous gift of vision and philanthropy. In the first year, we have transformed studio art education at UC Davis by bringing world-renowned artists to campus to teach art, critique and inspire our students and faculty, and engage with the broader community.

These visionary artists inspire UC Davis students, faculty, our community, and the world with their passion and with their art. New curricular offerings are also being made possible with residencies from teaching artists, creating extraordinary opportunities to intersect art research, education, and practice with new ideas, new perspectives, new art, and our students.

The discussions inspired by these artists amongst students and with the community have been wide-ranging and impactful. They have elevated the profile of Art Studio and of UC Davis and set the highest bar amongst colleges for artist residency programs. And we intend to do more!

Enhancing this new effort, and strategically building towards this full *arts renaissance* is also our partnership with the Royal Drawing School in London. The partnership between UC Davis and the Royal Drawing School in London, made possible through scholarships funded by you, has dramatically transformed the lives and careers of the UC Davis students who have participated. Study abroad is most often an unattainable experience for students, especially those from underrepresented backgrounds. The Royal Drawing School scholarships have built a bridge across the ocean and connected UC Davis and the Royal Drawing School to give talented students and artists the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to study from masters, to experience another academy, and to engage in international dialogue.

And, of course, in the gateway of the UC Davis campus, is the crown jewel of UC Davis and Northern California: The Manetti Shrem Museum, ranked as one of the 25 best museum building in the past century. This distinctive museum's dedication to making art accessible to all, to confronting the barriers to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and to impacting the interdisciplinary experimentations of art, is exemplary among museums and university art studies.

At the UC Davis College of Letters and Science, we believe in the importance, creativity, and magic of art. Art preserves feeling in a way record cannot. Art is a universal language, translating across time, culture, and perspective. Art is a force for social change. It gives voice to all, and rouses the emotion and actions of those who encounter it, building a force for good.

The gift of The Manetti Shrem California Studio program, the Manetti Shrem Museum, and the other investments into the arts programs and art accessibility, has changed art education at UC Davis and is launching an explosion of attention to our current *Arts Renaissance*.

On behalf of UC Davis, the Chancellor, the Manetti Shrem Museum and board, the College of Letters and Science, our art faculty and students, and myself – Maria and Jan, we truly thank you.