



NEWS RELEASE

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Toledo Museum of Art Acquires *Paula*, A Sculpture by Spanish Artist Jaume Plensa

TOLEDO, Ohio – The Toledo Museum of Art has acquired a large-scale work by famed Spanish artist Jaume Plensa for its sculpture garden.

Paula, which is on display adjacent to the Museum’s Monroe Street terrace, is a cast iron head created in 2014 that measures 276 11/16 inches high, 122 inches wide and 40 inches deep. It came to Toledo in June as part of the artist’s one-man exhibition *Jaume Plensa: Human Landscape*. Organized by the Cheekwood Botanical Garden & Museum of Art in Nashville, Tennessee, in partnership with the Frist Center for the Visual Arts, the exhibition, which closed Nov. 6, contained seven large outdoor sculptures as well as indoor installations and works on paper.

Brian Kennedy, CEO, president and director of the Toledo Museum of Art, said Plensa’s work really resonates with visitors.

“Given the immediate popularity of Jaume’s sculpture *Speigel* when it was added to our collection in 2012, we were not surprised by how many Museum members and visitors loved *Paula* and asked us whether the sculpture could stay in Toledo. We agreed and decided it should stay in the Georgia and David K. Welles Sculpture Garden.”

The artist’s popularity crosses international boundaries and many of his works are in public spaces in cities in Spain, France, Japan, England, South Korea, Germany, Canada, the United States and elsewhere. *The Crown Fountain*, unveiled in Chicago’s Millennium Park in 2004, is one of his largest projects and considered to be one of his most brilliant. TMA’s new sculpture was shown in Millennium Park in a 2014 Chicago exhibition commemorating the 10th anniversary of *The Crown Fountain*.

“It has been wonderful to collaborate with the Toledo Museum of Art on my exhibition, and to know that *Paula* was so welcomed in the community. I think the Toledo Museum is the perfect home for her, a girl from Barcelona now at home in Toledo, a metaphor for our global world, where beauty and human beings are the same all over,” Plensa said.

The Museum purchased *Paula* from the artist through Galerie Lelong using unrestricted funds from the Museum's Libbey Endowment and generous contributions given in memory of Frank Snug by his family, and given by Margy and Scott Trumbull, and by Thomas and Betsy Brady.

Although a portrait of a specific young girl, *Paula* has been described as an icon of the possibility of silence, beauty and thought. The sculpture is part of the artist's investigation of the portrait.

Born in Barcelona, Spain, in 1955, Plensa creates large figurative sculptures that produce enchanting and mystifying visions of the human form as landscape. His *Spiegel*, which also is on view in the Welles Sculpture Garden, shows the silhouettes of two large crouching figures made of a latticework of letters.

The artist has received many prestigious awards for his work, including the Médaille de Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres presented by the French Ministry of Culture in 1993; the Government of Catalonia's National Prize for Fine Art in 1997; an honorary doctorate in 2005 from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago; and more recently, Spain's National Prize for Fine Art in 2012 and the prestigious Velázquez Prize for the Arts in 2013.

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Note: For high resolution images or further information, contact Teri Sharp at tsharp@toledomuseum.org or call 419.254.5082, or Alia Orra at aorra@toledomuseum.org or 419-255-8000 ext. 7542.

Credit Line:

Jaume Plensa (Spanish, born 1955), *Paula*, cast iron, 2013. (H. 276 11/16 in., W. 122 in., D. 40 in.) Toledo Museum of Art, Purchased with funds given in memory of Frank Snug by his family and funds from Margy and Scott Trumbull, Thomas and Betsy Brady and the Libbey Endowment, Gift of Edward Drummond Libbey, 2017. © Jaume Plensa. Photograph by Andrew Weber, courtesy of the Toledo Museum of Art.

The Toledo Museum of Art is a nonprofit arts institution funded through individual donations, foundation grants, corporate sponsorships, and investments. The Ohio Arts Council helps fund programs at the Toledo Museum of Art through a sustainability grant program that encourages economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. Glass Pavilion® and Toledo Museum of Art Glass Pavilion® are registered service marks.

Admission to the Museum is free. The Museum is open Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, Noon to 5 p.m.; closed Monday and major holidays. Thursday evening hours are sponsored by Huntington Wealth Advisors. Friday evening hours are made possible by Fifth Third Bank.

The Museum is located at 2445 Monroe Street at Scottwood Avenue, just west of the downtown business district and one block off I-75 with exit designations posted. For general information, visitors can call 419-255-8000 or 800-644-6862, or visit toledomuseum.org.