

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release: February 9, 2016

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“Ellsworth Kelly” at the Barrick Museum, February 12 - May 14, 2016

The UNLV Barrick Museum is pleased to present *Ellsworth Kelly*. The exhibition has been organized by Michele C. Quinn of Las Vegas based art consultancy Michele C. Quinn Fine Art Advisory (MCQ) and includes over 20 print editions. Ellsworth Kelly was an American painter, sculptor, and printmaker who created works of cleanly juxtaposed colors and shapes and is largely considered to be one of the leading abstract artists of the postwar period. All of the works in this exhibition were created during the last two decades of his collaboration with Gemini G.E.L, the now-legendary print workshop located in Los Angeles.

Kelly's history with printmaking dates as far back as 1949 while he lived and worked in Paris. He explored screenprinting methods and intaglio, but his affinity was for lithography. He collaborated with only a handful of printmaking workshops in his lifetime. His collaboration with Gemini G.E.L resulted in over 260 unique print editions dating from 1970 to 2006. The artist's love of printmaking and the importance it plays in the entire *oeuvre* of his work can be felt in the level of detail, the particularities of form, and the saturation of color. The repetitive nature of the printmaking process allowed Kelly to reshuffle basic shapes in a range of colors while maintaining cohesion throughout the suite.

"The Barrick is pleased to present these extraordinarily beautiful prints by Ellsworth Kelly," says Aurore Giguët, director, UNLV Marjorie Barrick Museum. "These prints offer an opportunity to explore Kelly's interest in pure form and color."

The exhibition opens February 12 and runs through May 14, 2016. A talk will be given on **March 16** (6 – 7pm) by Gemini G.E.L project collaborator Erik Beehn.

About Ellsworth Kelly

American artist Ellsworth Kelly (1923 - 2015) is recognized as one of the most important abstraction artists. Born in Newburgh, New York, Kelly studied at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn until he was drafted into the U.S. Army at the age of twenty. From 1948 through 1954, he lived in France, teaching, traveling and studying both art and architecture. French abstraction greatly influenced him as a young artist. His style changed drastically, he abandoned figuration and easel painting, choosing to develop simple geometric shapes of pure, vibrant color. Returning to New York, Kelly established his critical reputation in the 1960s.

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ABOUT THE BARRICK MUSEUM: The UNLV Marjorie Barrick Museum, a public arts unit under the UNLV Department of Art and the College of Fine Arts, strives to provide a welcoming environment in which students, members of the University community, southern Nevada residents and the public in general can study and learn by directly experiencing works of art. Our goal is to enhance the visitor's understanding of art as an enduring human endeavor and to promote visual literacy for all patrons. To this end, the Museum acquires, exhibits, interprets and preserves works of art representative of past and present cultures, and artistic creativity.

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY: UNLV is a doctoral-degree-granting institution of 28,000 students and 3,300 faculty and staff. Founded in 1957, the university offers more than 220 undergraduate, master's and doctoral degree programs. UNLV is located on a 332-acre

campus in dynamic Southern Nevada and is classified in the category of Research Universities (high research activity) by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

BARRICK MUSEUM INFORMATION: For current program and exhibition information, call 702-895-3381 or visit unlv.edu/barrickmuseum

Hours: Mondays - Fridays: 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Thursdays until 8 p.m. Saturday: 12 p.m.–5 p.m.
Closed Sundays and state and federal holidays.

Cost: Free. Suggested voluntary contribution: \$5 for adults; \$2 for children and senior.