

## For immediate release

January 20, 2022

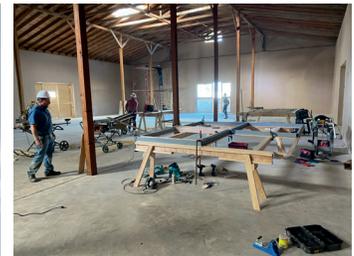


## Chinati Foundation to reopen John Chamberlain installation after significant building restoration

**Marfa, Texas (January 20, 2022)** — The John Chamberlain Building at the Chinati Foundation/La Fundación Chinati will reopen on Saturday, April 30, 2022, after a comprehensive 12-month-long restoration of the 23,000-square-foot space. The project also includes conservation of the 23 large-scale John Chamberlain sculptures permanently on display within, which comprise the largest permanent installation of Chamberlain's works in the world.

Chinati will celebrate the reopening of the John Chamberlain Building with a special day-long event on April 30, 2022. Admission to the John Chamberlain Building will be free to visitors on that day and for the remainder of 2022.

In January 2022, the Central Marfa Historic District, where the John Chamberlain Building is included as a contributing structure, was recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. This designation will honor Donald Judd's exceptional contributions to art and architecture in Marfa. It also recognizes Judd's role in establishing Marfa as a cultural center and destination.



Chamberlain Building under construction, 2021–2022. Photos by Sarah Vasquez

In 1983, the John Chamberlain Building was the first permanent installation opened to the public by Judd in Marfa, Texas. Originally three separate warehouse structures, built in 1940 and used for storing wool and mohair, the John Chamberlain Building was transformed architecturally by Judd into a massive, contiguous space flooded with natural light. Judd's adaptations make it one of his major architectural projects. He designed the quarter-panel, wood-frame windows and pivot doors; situated grids of sotols, a native plant of the Chihuahuan Desert, to demarcate the east and south borders of the property; and added the adobe-wall courtyard on the northwest corner. Together with Chamberlain, Judd selected and placed the large-scale sculptures installed in the space.



“Almost four decades in the desert have taken their toll on the Chamberlain Building. The restoration work preserves and strengthens this landmark so that it may continue to be a central destination in Marfa,” says Jenny Moore, director, Chinati Foundation. “The improvements to the Chamberlain Building, along with the rest of Chinati’s art, architecture, and land, ensure that we continue to serve as a beacon of creativity and inspiration for decades to come.”

For the John Chamberlain Building restoration project, Chinati collaborated with JC Stoddard Construction, who has worked closely with the Texas Historical Commission and municipalities to restore historic structures throughout Texas, including the Alamo, and the architects Schaum/Shieh to perform the work. As part of the restoration, Chinati has addressed structural concerns such as a complete replacement of the metal roof and skylights and the addition of new ramps that make the building ADA compliant. The project maintains Judd’s original designs by restoring the building’s pivot doors and adobe perimeter walls as well as by replanting the sotols in the courtyard.

Judd championed Chamberlain’s work as early as 1963 and was one of the first art critics to recognize Chamberlain’s use of industrial material and colors, developments that were significant to Judd’s own work. Judd declared Chamberlain to be “one [of the] few perfect artists of this time.” The John Chamberlain Building restoration project includes a dedicated preservation effort on Chamberlain’s *Barge Marfa* (1983), the largest of the artist’s signature foam sculptures, carved in situ by Chamberlain.

In 2017, Chinati initiated a multiyear master plan to support its needs in the areas of art conservation, architectural restoration, land preservation, and operational improvements. The restoration of the John Chamberlain Building is the first project of the master plan to be completed.

### **About the Chinati Foundation**

The Chinati Foundation/La Fundación Chinati is a contemporary art museum created by the artist Donald Judd in Marfa, Texas. The specific intention of Chinati is to preserve and present to the public permanent, large-scale installations by a select group of artists, in which the art, the architecture, and the land are inextricably linked. Artists in the collection include Donald Judd, along with Carl Andre, Ingólfur Arnarsson, John Chamberlain, Dan Flavin, Roni Horn, Robert Irwin, Ilya Kabakov, Richard Long, Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen, David Rabinowitch, and John Wesley. Public tours and viewing of the collection, the conservation of artworks, education programs, artists’ residencies, special exhibitions, lectures, performances, and publications are all vital facets of Chinati’s mission.

More information about the Chinati Foundation and its master plan may be found at [chinati.org](http://chinati.org).

### **Contact**

Melissa Parsoff, Parsoff Communications: [mparsoff@parsoff-communications.com](mailto:mparsoff@parsoff-communications.com) / 516 445 5899