INAUGURATION THOMAS MANN HOUSE

Conference “The Struggle for Democracy”

RSVP by June 11: conference@vatmh.org
www.vatmh.org

Tuesday | June 19
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Getty Center
Harold M. Williams Auditorium
1200 Getty Center Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90049

With German Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier
Jutta Allmendinger (WZB Berlin), Heinz Bude (University of Kassel),
Claire Jean Kim (UC Irvine), Ananya Roy (UCLA), Marcelo Suárez-Orozco
(UCLA), Fonna Forman (UC San Diego), Edwin T. Cruz (UC San Diego)
and Helmut Anheier (Hertie School of Governance)

Thomas Mann stated after the rise of National Socialism and the end of
the Weimar Republic. After living in France and Switzerland, Thomas
Mann found refuge and a home in the United States. During his time in
the U.S., he comprehensively addressed questions of democratic renewal,
freedom, and exile in his literary works, lectures, and essays. Through his
radio messages broadcast by the BBC, he became the most important
German voice in exile.

Eighty-five years after Thomas Mann’s escape, the realization that democ-
ocracy is vulnerable has become a shared experience on both sides of
the Atlantic. The cohesion of democratic polities is endangered both in
Europe and the United States. Segregation threatens to supersede ex-
change; confrontation supplants compromise. While political camps in
Germany and the U.S. seem more and more irreconcilable, alternatives to
democracy gain in confidence. It is becoming increasingly clear that the
struggle for democracy has once again become one of the most impor-
tant issues of our time.

„Throughout the world it has become pre-
carious to take democracy for granted“, 

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