

Artis—Naples

*Home of The Baker Museum
and the Naples Philharmonic*

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ARTIS—NAPLES, THE BAKER MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS TO OPEN TO THE PUBLIC DECEMBER 1, 2019

EXHIBITIONS FREE FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER AS THANK YOU TO THE COMMUNITY

Naples, Fla., Artis—Naples, The Baker Museum announced today that The Baker Museum exhibitions will reopen to the public on December 1, 2019, after being closed for more than two years in the wake of Hurricane Irma. Admission to The Baker Museum exhibitions will be free for the month of December. The 2019-20 season of visual arts programming will showcase highlights of the museum's growing permanent collection and notable artworks on loan in exhibitions organized especially for the museum. Four major exhibitions will open at noon on December 1.

The visitor experience is heightened thanks to the dramatic changes to The Baker Museum designed by New York-based Weiss/Manfredi Architecture/Landscape/Urbanism. A renovated and more defined entrance to The Baker Museum guides patrons into an expanded lobby space and refreshed welcome experience. In addition, the new open and lushly landscaped Norris Garden is a tranquil and inviting gathering space for visitors, located between The Baker Museum and Hayes Hall.

"We are excited beyond measure to reopen The Baker Museum exhibitions," said CEO and President Kathleen van Bergen. "In a way, we are reintroducing The Baker Museum to many, and as a thank you to our community, it felt right to ensure free access to these stunning exhibitions in the month of December. We are so pleased to be once again operating with the full power of our multidisciplinary mission."

The south expansion of The Baker Museum will open in January.

A Walk Through The Baker Museum Exhibitions

On the first floor of the museum, patrons will be greeted by selections from the museum's permanent collection that make up the **100 Iconic Works from the Permanent Collection** exhibition. Chosen for their aesthetic and historical significance, a range of selections include works by renowned Mexican modernists such as Diego Rivera, José Clemente Orozco and David Alfaro Siqueiros, as well as trailblazing American artists such as Helen Frankenthaler, Alexander Calder and Robert Motherwell.

On the museum's second floor, visitors will experience **Monet to Matisse: French Masterworks from the Dixon Gallery and Gardens**, comprised of stunning works by some of the world's best-known artists, including Claude Monet, Edward Degas, Pierre-August Renoir, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec and Camille Pissarro. In addition to works by these impressionist artists, the exhibition will feature major paintings by post-impressionist masters Paul Cézanne and Paul Gauguin. For this exhibition, the Dixon is loaning more than 70 objects derived from the core of its permanent collection.

Visitors to the third floor will enjoy the ***Looking at Words: A Poetry of Shape*** exhibition, which features an exciting look at the use of text and words within visual art by prominent contemporary artists. Presented artists include John Baldessari, Mel Bochner, Louise Bourgeois, Damien Hirst, Jenny Holzer, Barbara Kruger, Ed Ruscha, Lorna Simpson and Andy Warhol among others. These works, underscoring the power of language, come from the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation.

Color Field takes advantage of the reimagined outdoor spaces on the grounds of the Kimberly K. Querrey and Louis A. Simpson Cultural Campus as well as a select indoor location. *Color Field* is a sculpture exhibition organized by the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas, for The Baker Museum. The exhibition features interactive sculptures by contemporary artists who employ vibrant colors and enlarged forms meant to engage all the senses.

An Engaging Patron Experience

In addition to the opening of The Baker Museum exhibitions on December 1, 2019, Heidi's Place will open at the south end of the Norris Garden. A casual cafe offering a variety of drinks and light bites, Heidi's Place will be open Tuesday through Saturday 11am-2pm and Sunday, noon -3pm, plus 90 minutes prior to Hayes Hall and Daniels Pavilion performances through intermission.

The Baker Museum reference library has been relocated to the first floor, opening additional gallery space on the third floor. This extensive collection of art books will be housed in an inviting new space named The Sisters Reading Room, which will be accessible from both The Baker Museum lobby and directly from the Norris Garden.

Additionally, a new central welcome desk in The Baker Museum lobby will provide an opportunity for patrons to purchase admission to The Baker Museum as well as tickets for performances, lectures and other Artis—Naples events. Located off the main lobby, The Baker Museum Store also opens December 1, 2019, with an eclectic selection of gifts, jewelry and children's items. The store is an authorized retailer of Chihuly Studio Glass.

About ARTIS—NAPLES

Artis—Naples is the premier organization for the visual and performing arts in Southwest Florida. We are driven to inspire, educate and entertain by presenting world-class events that enrich our community. With the generous support of our patrons, we offer a unique range of programs including music, film, dance, comedy, lectures and exhibitions featuring internationally acclaimed artists. Our interdisciplinary approach cultivates a broader appreciation for art in its many forms.

The 8.5-acre Kimberly K. Querrey and Louis A. Simpson Cultural Campus includes two performance halls, Frances Pew Hayes Hall and Myra J. Daniels Pavilion; The Baker Museum; and the Stabile Education building.

Led by CEO and President Kathleen van Bergen and Sharon and Timothy Ubben Music Director Andrey Boreyko, the organization offers audiences more than 800 paid and free events annually. Artis—Naples welcomes 300,000-plus visitors each year for a broad array of artistic and educational opportunities.

NAPLES PHILHARMONIC

The Naples Philharmonic has long been recognized as one of the cornerstones of Southwest Florida's arts community. The orchestra performs more than 140 orchestral and chamber music concerts, as well as opera and ballet, education, community and special event concerts annually between September and July. In 2009, Jack Everly was named principal pops conductor and continues today in that role.

THE BAKER MUSEUM

The Baker Museum is one of the foremost fine art museums in Southwest Florida. The museum hosts several traveling exhibitions annually to complement installations of works from its permanent collections. Comprising more than 3,500 objects, the museum's broad holdings of 20th- and 21st-century art reflect the generosity and commitment of area collectors. Of particular strength are the museum's collections of American and Mexican modern art.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY

In addition to creating and presenting visual and performing arts, Artis—Naples provides robust education and community activities for students of all ages. More than 45,000 students from Collier County Public Schools interact with Artis—Naples education programming each year both on its cultural campus and in classrooms. Each year, the Lifelong Learning program provides engaging lectures and study opportunities for 7,000-plus adults seeking to engage more deeply with the arts.

The Friends of Artis—Naples, with over 4,000 members, offers activities, travel experiences and events geared toward fostering a deeper relationship between patrons and the arts.

In 2017, Artis—Naples acquired the Naples International Film Festival (NIFF), expanding its film offerings and providing a platform for the festival's continued excellence and growth. NIFF was named one of 2019's Coolest Film Festivals in the World by *MovieMaker Magazine*.

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