



New Orleans Museum of Art

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Odyssey Ball Will Preview New Fabergé Exhibition

Toussaint to Headline Odyssey Patron Party

NEW ORLEANS, La. (Thursday, October 2, 2008)— **The Forty-Third Odyssey Ball**, to be held the evening of **Saturday, November 8**, at the New Orleans Museum of Art, will be the first opportunity for patrons to preview *Objects of Desire: Fabergé from the Hodges Family Collection*, a major exhibition of works by master Russian jeweler Peter Carl Fabergé, many of which have never been seen by the public.

The annual Odyssey Ball is among the most highly anticipated events on the city's social calendar. Legendary New Orleans songwriter and musician **Allen Toussaint** will headline the exclusive Patron Party, from 7:30-9 p.m., before **Oak Alley** and **Anais St. John with Harry Mayronne** entertain at the Ball, from 9 p.m. to midnight.

The opulent black-tie extravaganza also features exquisite dining, including hors d'oeuvres and a sumptuous **dinner by Palate New Orleans, décor by Blaine Kern Jr.'s Mardi Gras Productions** and, of course, the storied **live and silent auctions**. Offerings in this year's auction include an **excursion for 20 on a private rail car**, a **one-week stay in the finca Cas Fiols in Soller, Mallorca**, and a **one-week stay at a private Paris residence** in the 17th arrondissement, as well as **jewels and original artworks** with estimated values starting at \$1,000.

Dr. Daniel Hodges and Sherri S. Logan are Honorary Chairs for The Forty-Third Odyssey Ball, while **Mr. and Mrs. Claude Schlesinger** are the Chairmen.

Tickets for the Forty-Third Odyssey Ball, underwritten by the Lupin Foundation, start at \$150 for Museum members and \$200 for non-members. Multiple-ticket packages for sponsors are available beginning at \$500, which includes reserved seating, extensive recognition, and other special considerations. To reserve your tickets, or for questions, contact the NOMA Volunteer Committee at (504) 658-4121 or nvcnoma@noma.org.

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The Forty-Third Odyssey Ball
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More on *Objects of Desire: Fabergé from the Hodges Family Collection*

This winter, the New Orleans Museum of Art presents *Objects of Desire: Fabergé from the Hodges Family Collection*—featuring a selection of the famed Easter eggs, as well as sculpture, jewels, smoking accessories and other precious objects by Peter Carl Fabergé—on view from November 9, 2008 through January 18, 2009.

The Hodges Family Fabergé Collection currently includes 106 diversified objects, a number that continues to grow as Louisiana resident D. Lee Hodges amasses one of the world's premier sets of Fabergé.

Since 1983, the Fabergé gallery at the New Orleans Museum of Art has been one of the most visited sites within the nearly 100-year-old building. With the relocation of the Matilda Geddings Gray Foundation Collection of Fabergé to the Cheekwood Botanical Garden and Museum of Art in Nashville in 2007, the Museum was faced with the daunting prospect of either replacing that Fabergé material or of regrettably closing the popular gallery. At that point, D. Lee Hodges realized that the Museum was in dire need of assistance and generously offered to place his collection of Fabergé works on extended loan, an offer made all the more remarkable by the fact that Dr. Hodges was a Louisiana collector of whom the Museum had heretofore been unaware.

About NOMA and the Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden

The New Orleans Museum of Art, founded in 1910 by Isaac Delgado, houses more than 40,000 art objects encompassing 4,000 years of world art. Works from the permanent collection, along with continuously changing temporary exhibitions, are on view in the Museum's 46 galleries Wednesdays from noon to 8 p.m. and Thursdays to Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission to the Museum is free to Louisiana residents through the generosity of the Helis Foundation.

Admission to the adjacent Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden, featuring work by 57 artists, including several of the 20th century's great master sculptors, is always free during regular Museum hours.

The New Orleans Museum of Art and the Sculpture Garden are fully accessible to handicapped visitors and wheelchairs are available from the front desk.

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