



## New Orleans Museum of Art

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Nine Artists to Exhibit at NOMA During Prospect.1 New Orleans

**North America's Largest Contemporary Art Biennial Opens Nov. 1;  
Free admission to NOMA during Prospect.1, Nov. 1-Jan. 18**

[Hi-res images available upon request.]

**NEW ORLEANS, La. (Friday, October 3, 2008)**—For 11 weeks—from November 1, 2008, to January 18, 2009—the New Orleans Museum of Art will showcase works by nine artists, from international superstars to locally based legends, as part of **Prospect.1 New Orleans**, the largest contemporary art biennial ever held in the United States.

Prospect.1 New Orleans will feature 81 artists from 38 countries at more than 25 venues throughout the city. The artists whose work will be on view at the New Orleans Museum of Art and the adjacent City Park grounds are **Willie Birch, Monica Bonvicini, Victor Harris & Fi Yi Yi, Kalup Linzy, Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, Jorge Macchi and Edgardo Rudnitzky, Kaz Oshiro, Xu Bing and Paul Villinski.**

Prospect.1 will be on view at NOMA in the Great Hall and McDermott Lobby (Birch); the first-floor Ella West Freeman Galleries (Lozano-Hemmer and Harris & Fi Yi Yi); the second-floor Modern and Contemporary galleries (Linzy, Oshiro, Xu); atop the Museum's north roof, facing Esplanade Avenue (Bonvicini); outside the Museum's main entrance (Villinski, from Nov. 26 to Dec. 14 only); and in nearby Bayou St. John (Macchi and Rudnitzky).

### **Special Opening Weekend Hours**

For the opening weekend of Prospect.1 New Orleans, the New Orleans Museum of Art will remain open until 8 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 1 and Sunday, Nov. 2.

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### **Admission and Tickets**

The New Orleans Museum of Art will be free to the public throughout the entire run of Prospect.1 New Orleans, from Nov. 1, 2008 through Jan. 18, 2009. No advance tickets are necessary. Every public program during this period also will be free to all.

### **About the Prospect.1 artists at NOMA**

The Prospect.1 artists on view at NOMA will represent several continents, as well as a variety of media:

**Willie Birch** (b. 1942): A prominent New Orleans native, Willie Birch's work is included in public and private collections throughout the country, including the New Orleans Museum of Art. His politically incisive yet emotionally sensitive work addresses issues related to African American culture and survival. For Prospect.1 he will present a series of new large-scale charcoal and acrylic drawings, relating to New Orleans' musical heritage, as well as the daily life and celebratory rituals of the artist's Seventh Ward neighborhood.

**Monica Bonvicini** (b. 1965): Born in Venice, Italy, Monica Bonvicini now lives and works in Berlin. Since the mid-1990s, she has worked on large-scale installation and sculptural pieces that explore the relationship between architecture, built environments, gender and sexuality in the Western world. Apart from having exhibited in international art biennials in São Paulo (2006), Venice (1999/2005), and Taipei and Gwangju (2006), in 2005 she received the Nationalgalerie Prize for Young Art, one of Europe's most prestigious art awards. For Prospect.1, Bonvicini's monumental sculptural construction, *Desire*, will rest atop the Museum, facing the City Park entrance at the convergence of Carrollton Avenue and Esplanade Avenue.

**Kalup Linzy** (b. 1977): Living and working in Brooklyn, New York, Kalup Linzy is a video and performance artist best known for a series of video art pieces satirizing the tone and narrative approach of television soap opera. Linzy performs most of the characters himself, many of them in drag, and also performs on stage using many of the same figures. He was recently named a Guggenheim Fellow for 2007-2008. Linzy's contribution to Prospect.1, a new video, *Keys to Our Heart*, was filmed on location in New Orleans.

**Rafael Lozano-Hemmer** (b. 1972): Born in Mexico City, Lozano-Hemmer lives and works in Montreal, Canada and Madrid, Spain. He creates large-scale interactive installations in public spaces, usually deploying new technologies such as robotics, projections, sound, the Internet, cell phones, sensors and other devices. Recently he represented Mexico in its first official participation at the Venice Biennale (2007). For Prospect.1, NOMA will present a new light installation by Lozano-Hemmer entitled *Pulse Tank*.

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**Victor Harris** (b. 1952) **and the Fi Yi Yi**: Born and raised in New Orleans, Victor Harris is the founder and Big Chief of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Indian tribe, the Fi Yi Yi. Harris suited for more than 25 years with the late Allison “Tootie” Montana, whose suits appeared for the first time in a museum setting in the 1997 NOMA exhibition *He’s the Prettiest: A Tribute to Big Chief Allison “Tootie” Montana’s Fifty Years of Mardi Gras Indian Suiting*. Starting his own tribe in 1984, Harris became the first Big Chief to conceal his face entirely, African-style, and his Mandingo Warriors became the first Mardi Gras Indians to create explicitly African-themed suits. The appearance of Fi-Yi-Yi Indians on Mardi Gras is one of the holiday’s most anticipated events.

**Jorge Macchi** (b. 1963) and **Edgardo Rudnitzky** (b. 1956): Both natives of Argentina, Macchi currently lives and works in Buenos Aires, while Rudnitzky lives and works in Berlin. Macchi works with everyday, ready-made and ephemeral objects in a variety of media, including installations, video, painting, collage, and photography. Using material such as newspaper clippings, city maps, and music sheets, Macchi addresses subjects that range from random acts of violence, to unrequited love, to the interplay between presence and absence. Since 1998, he has collaborated frequently with the composer and sound artist Edgardo Rudnitzky, a musician and composer, producing works that range from simple sound works, to complex installations involving light, glass and video components. Their latest collaboration, *Little Music*, will appear in nearby Bayou St. John, a short walk from the Museum.

**Kaz Oshiro** (b. 1967): Born in Okinawa, Japan, Oshiro now lives and works in Los Angeles. His *trompe l’oeil* sculptures of everyday objects, such as washers, dryers and cardboard boxes, are made from stretched canvas, acrylic paint and other traditional painting materials. Oshiro’s presentation of these seemingly banal objects within a gallery context challenges the way we look at the real-life models for his sculptures. His NOMA presentation for Prospect.1 will include ordinary items such as kitchen cabinets, laundry machines, and luggage cases.

**Xu Bing** (b. 1955): A key figure in the Chinese New Wave movement, Xu now lives and works in New York and Beijing. He gained international recognition for his monumental work *Book from the Sky* (1988), an installation of printed volumes and scrolls containing 4,000 characters individually “invented,” designed and cut into wood-blocks by the artist. His work at NOMA, *Book from the Ground*, continues to explore the intersection of language and culture, in this case through a dialogue of internationally recognized symbols and icons transmitted through computers.

**Paul Villinski** (b. 1960): Once a resident of New Orleans, Villinski now lives and works in New York. His artwork transforms discarded, “worthless” materials into objects of new meaning and beauty. For Prospect.1, he has created the *Emergency Response Studio*, a 30-foot FEMA trailer, like those deployed to the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina, transformed into a visually engaging, solar and wind-powered mobile artist’s studio. The structure can be used in post-disaster sites to house displaced or visiting artists. The trailer will travel to different locations in New Orleans during the Biennial, and will reside in City Park outside the New Orleans Museum of Art from Nov. 26 to Jan. 14.

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### **About Prospect.1 New Orleans**

On November 1, 2008, Prospect.1 New Orleans, the largest biennial of international contemporary art ever organized in the United States, will open to the public in museums, historic buildings and found sites throughout the Crescent City. Prospect.1 New Orleans has been conceived in the tradition of the great international biennials, and will showcase new artistic practices as well as an array of programs benefiting the local community. Over the course of its 11-week run, Prospect.1 New Orleans plans to draw international media attention, creative energy, and new economic activity to the city of New Orleans.

Prospect.1 New Orleans will open to the public with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the U.S. Mint on Nov. 1 at 11 a.m., and will remain open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. throughout the first weekend (8 p.m. at select locations). Prospect.1 will be on view until January 18, 2009, Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in most locations (until 5 p.m. at NOMA).

A Prospect.1 Welcome Center, where guests can pick up exhibition maps and related materials, will be located in the Hefler Warehouse in New Orleans' Warehouse District (851 Magazine Street). The Welcome Center is co-sponsored with New Orleans' Downtown Development District (DDD), in collaboration with Eskew+Dumez+Ripple Architects.

Every day that the biennial is open, shuttle buses will operate on rotation, traveling to each venue. Shuttle service will begin at 10:45 a.m., and shuttles will depart the W Hotel on Poydras Street every half hour. In the Lower Ninth Ward, there will be a mini shuttle, departing the L9 Center for the Arts every 20 minutes, traveling to each of the sites in that area.

Prospect.1 New Orleans is organized by Dan Cameron, the founding director and curator of U.S. Biennial, Inc., an internationally renowned contemporary curator and Director of Visual Arts of the Contemporary Arts Center (CAC) in New Orleans. Cameron has organized numerous large-scale and international exhibitions, including *Dirty Yoga: the 2006 Taipei Biennial*; *NY Interrupted* (pkm Gallery, Beijing, 2006-07) and *Poetic Justice* (the 8th International Istanbul Biennial, 2003), among others. While Senior Curator at the New Museum (1995-2006), he organized retrospective exhibitions on the work of numerous mid-career artists from the U.S. and abroad, as well as acclaimed survey exhibitions like *East Village USA* (2004) and *Living Inside the Grid* (2003).

### **More about Prospect.1**

For more information on Prospect.1 New Orleans, visit [www.prospectneworleans.org](http://www.prospectneworleans.org).

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## **Public Programs at NOMA**

In conjunction with Prospect.1 New Orleans, the New Orleans Museum of Art has organized several public programs related to the work on view at the Museum. All of the public programs listed below are **free to the public**.

### **Sunday, November 2—ArtTable lectures**

As a program partner of Prospect.1 New Orleans, ArtTable, the leadership organization for professional women in the visual arts, presents “Urban Prospects,” a series of three public events during opening weekend of the biennial. The first panel, “Urban Prospects: Art in Economic Development,” will be held at Tulane University on Saturday, Nov.1, from 5-7 p.m. The final two programs will be held in NOMA’s Stern Auditorium:

#### *Urban Prospects: Art in Community Development (2-3:30 p.m.)*

A discussion with New Orleans-based artists and biennial artists about their community-based artworks and practices, moderated by **Clare Tancons**, associate curator of Prospect.1 New Orleans and the Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans. Panelists include **Mark Bradford, Mel Chin, Dawn Dedeaux, Jan Gilbert, Victor Harris, Wangechi Mutu** and **Jana Napoli**.

#### *Urban Prospects: Vanguard (3:30-4:30 p.m.)*

An informal dialogue with **Toby Devan Lewis**, ArtTable member, collector, philanthropist, curator and founder of the Toby Fund, the initial funder of Prospect.1, and **Dan Cameron**, Prospect.1 Founding Director and Chief Curator, and visual arts director, the Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans, on their longstanding working relationship and how it culminated in the largest international biennial ever held in the United States.

### **Sunday, November 2, 4:30 p.m.—Victor Harris and Fi Yi Yi**

New Orleans legend and Prospect.1 exhibiting artist **Victor Harris** leads a performance of the **Fi Yi Yi Mardi Gras Indians**.

### **Wednesday, December 10, 6 p.m.—Willie Birch and Dan Cameron**

A discussion between exhibiting artist **Willie Birch** and Prospect.1 founding director and curator **Dan Cameron**, in the Stern Auditorium.

### **Wednesday, December 17, 6 p.m.—Miranda Lash**

A gallery tour highlighting the work of the nine Prospect.1 artists on view in and around the Museum, with Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art **Miranda Lash**.

### **Wednesday, January 14, 6 p.m.—Oral History of the Fi Yi Yi**

Exhibiting artist **Victor Harris** and other prominent Mardi Gras Indians relay the story of the Fi Yi Yi and discuss the traditions of Mardi Gras Indians.

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### **About Press and VIP Access**

The “Vernissage,” or private preview, for Prospect.1 New Orleans will take place on October 30 and 31, with private viewings of all venues for VIPs and accredited press. For information on obtaining credentials, contact Kellie Honeycutt of Blue Medium at (212) 675-1800 or [kellie@bluemedium.com](mailto:kellie@bluemedium.com).

### **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 30,000 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 58 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 Besthoff Sculpture Garden are fully accessible to handicapped visitors and wheelchairs are available from the front desk.

For more information, call (504) 659-4100 or visit [www.noma.org](http://www.noma.org).

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