



**New Orleans
Museum of Art**

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Swamp Tours opens Wednesday June 2 Contemporary Louisiana Art on display through August 29

[Hi-res images:<http://www.noma.org/press/SwampTours/>]

NEW ORLEANS - Six months ago, New Orleans Museum of Art curators **William Fagaly** and **Miranda Lash** set out on a journey to discover **little-known works by notable contemporary Louisiana artists** in the Museum's collection. The result is **27 rarely seen treasures** in an exhibition called ***Swamp Tours***, on view at **NOMA** from **June 2 to August 29, 2010**. The exhibition will **open on June 2 with a free reception from 6 to 8 p.m. featuring the band Jean-Eric**.

Lash, NOMA's curator of Contemporary Art, invited **Fagaly, the Museum's curator of African art** and a Louisiana art specialist with a **40 year history at NOMA**, to assist in choosing works for the exhibition. The two followed a simple guideline in selecting works for *Swamp Tours*: the exhibition was to **highlight contemporary Louisiana artworks** that were **already represented in the Museum's collection but had not been displayed for some time**.

"We wanted an exhibition that was Louisiana-centric and lighthearted," Lash said. "Some of the work is swamp themed, but the title is not to be taken literally - it's a metaphor for a tour of our Louisiana artists in NOMA's contemporary collection."

The curators also note that the "tour" is not meant to be a definitive history of contemporary Louisiana art, but rather highlights unknown pieces from well-known artists.

"Even with well-known figures like Ida Kohlmeyer, Robert Gordy, Lynda Benglis and

Clementine Hunter, we tried to find unexpected works," Lash said.

"We deliberately shied away from familiar or signature styles," added Fagaly. "This exhibition offers an expanded understanding of these artists, there's a feeling of exploration, a fresh look. For instance, there is an abstract Clementine Hunter quilt in the show like no other."

Artists in *Swamp Tours* include:

Ron Bechet, Lynda Benglis, Charles Blank, Fritz Bultman, David Butler, Jeffrey Cook, George Dureau, George Febres, Michael Frolich, Robert Gordy, Clementine Hunter, Ida Kohlmeyer, Sister Gertrude Morgan, James "J.P." Scott, Keith Sonnier, Jim Richard, Noel Rockmore, Kendall Shaw, Robert Tannen, Robert Warrens and Edward Whiteman.

NOMA ADMISSION

Wednesdays are FREE for all Museum visitors. Louisiana residents with valid photo identification: Adults, \$8; Seniors (65 and up), \$7; Children 3-17, \$4; Children under 3, free. Out-of-state visitors: Adults, \$10; Seniors (65 and up), \$9; Children 3-17, \$5; Children under 3, free. Free Wednesdays and discounted admission for Louisiana residents is made possible through the generosity of The Helis Foundation.

ABOUT NOMA AND THE 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 adjacent Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden, featuring work by 61 artists, including several of the 20th century's great master sculptors is always free. The Sculpture Garden is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. except for Wednesdays, when it's open until dusk. 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) 658-4100 or visit www.noma.org.