



New Orleans Museum of Art

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Grace Wilson, Director of Communications and Marketing, (504) 658-4106

Celebrating a Century of Art NOMA honors *Great Collectors, Great Donors* during *Art Lives Odyssey Ball, November 13* Exhibition on view November 14 to January 23

New Orleans, LA - On November 13, 2010, the New Orleans Museum of Art (NOMA) will debut the exhibition *Great Collectors/Great Donors: The Making of the New Orleans Museum of Art, 1910 – 2010* at the 45th annual Odyssey Ball. The theme for this opulent gala is *Art Lives*.

Great Collectors/Great Donors: The Making of the New Orleans Museum of Art, 1910 – 2010 opens to the public on Sunday, November 14. The exhibition walks visitors through the history of NOMA, decade by decade, honoring the collectors and donors who helped to form the museum's permanent collection. The exhibition is on view in the Ella West Freeman Galleries through January 23, 2011 and is generously sponsored by the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel.

The Odyssey Ball and the *Great Collectors* exhibition celebrate the beginning of NOMA's centennial year, which is 2011. The first exhibition at the Isaac Delgado Museum of Art (named the New Orleans Museum of Art in 1971) consisted of 400 paintings and works lent by local collectors. NOMA has since grown to thirteen times its original size and has a permanent collection of world art numbering over 35,000 works.

The exhibition will showcase NOMA's diverse permanent collection and honor donors Dr. Russell Albright, Sydney and Walda Besthoff, Melvin P. Billups, Dr. Siddharth Bhansali, Brooke Hayward Duchin, Muriel Bultman Francis, Dr. Kurt Gitter, Mrs. Benjamin M. Harrod, Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Hills, Alvin Howard, Mr. and Mrs. Chapman H. Hyams, Shirley Latter Kaufmann, Victor K. Kiam, Samuel H. Kress, the Kuntz Family, Clarence John Laughlin, Dr. and Mrs. E. Ralph Lupin, Mr. and Mrs. P. Roussel Norman, Bert Piso, Mr. and Mrs. R. Randolph Richmond, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Shelton, Perry E. H. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Stafford, Edith Rosenwald Stern, Mr. and Mrs. John Weinstock, Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Whitecloud and Morgan Whitney.

“In my opinion, two of the most significant collectors who lead the direction of NOMA were Mr. and Mrs. Frederick M. Stafford,” said John Bullard, Director Emeritus. “Fred and his wife Mimi, a native New Orleanian, had a transformative effect on the development of NOMA’s permanent art collection, which was like a mini-museum, covering practically the entire history of Western art from ancient Egypt and Greece to twentieth-century modern masters, as well as the arts of Africa, Asia and Oceania.”

The title of NOMA’s 1966 exhibition of the Stafford Collection, *Odyssey of an Art Collector: Unity in Diversity, Five Thousand Years of Art*, gave the name to the museum’s annual ball.

Mrs. Frederick M. Stafford is this year’s Honorary Chairman of the *Art Lives Odyssey Ball*. Chairmen Adrea Heebe and Dominick Russo Jr. host this year’s event, which honors the Staffords and the many collectors and donors who helped to form the museum’s permanent collection. An Odyssey highlight every year is the live auction, which features over 100 items and experiences. This year, one of the top prizes is a trip to the Big Apple hosted by the Honorary Chairman: *New York City through Mrs. Stafford’s Eyes*.

The Odyssey Patron Party will feature music by Chris Burke and the Ball presents BRW and the Fredy Omar Quartet. Food will be served throughout the museum with world-class cuisine from the Ralph Brennan Restaurant Group. For information on tickets and a full list of auction items for the Odyssey Ball, contact the NOMA Volunteer Committee at (504) 658-4141 or visit www.odysseyball.com.

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.

