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***The Sound of One Hand:  
Paintings and Calligraphy by Zen Master Hakuin  
Organized by the New Orleans Museum of Art***

**NEW ORLEANS**—From **February 11 to April 17, 2011**, the New Orleans Museum of Art (NOMA) presents a new exhibition of paintings and calligraphy by the most significant Japanese Zen master of the past 500 years, Hakuin Ekaku.

Organized by NOMA, *The Sound of One Hand: Paintings and Calligraphy by Zen Master Hakuin* is the first exhibition in the Western world devoted to the art of Hakuin (1685-1768). Hakuin invented a new visual language for Zen, using folk and everyday subjects in addition to traditional Zen themes. His influence in both teaching and art remains unequalled in Zen today.

“In celebration of our centennial year, NOMA is proud to present this exhibition of Hakuin’s work. This exhibition features major loans, but also highlights our extensive permanent collection of Japanese art,” said Susan Taylor, Director of the New Orleans Museum of Art.

Until relatively recently, Hakuin’s role as an artist has remained at the periphery of Japanese art history. Only in the past few years has his work begun to be included in large-scale exhibitions, collected by major museums, and featured in art surveys. For this first exhibition devoted to Hakuin in the Western world, 77 scrolls (67 by Hakuin himself and ten by his major pupils) were gathered from public and private Japanese and American collections.

“Hakuin reinvigorated Zen painting during the eighteenth century, reaching new audiences and inventing new Zen painting subjects. He also authored new kōan, Zen riddles, the best known of which is ‘What is the sound of one hand?’ which has become a part of Western popular culture,” said Lisa Rotondo-McCord, Curator of Asian Art.

These works demonstrate the extraordinary range, vitality, humor, power and depth of the Zen master. Although created nearly four centuries ago, they continue to profoundly affect both art lovers and Zen adherents.

Curating the exhibition and authoring the accompanying, fully illustrated scholarly catalogue are two noted scholars of Zen painting, independent scholar Audrey Yoshiko Seo and Stephen Addiss, the Tucker-Boatwright Professor at the University of Richmond. Additionally, Fukushima Keidō Rōshi, Zen Master and Abbot of Tōfukuji in Kyoto, has written an introduction to the catalogue.

The *Sound of One Hand* was previously on view at the Japan Society Gallery in New York from Oct. 1, 2010 to Jan. 9, 2011. After NOMA, the exhibition will travel to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) from May 22 to August 17, 2011.

#### **EVENTS:**

##### **Opening Lecture and Walk-through by Dr. Stephen Addiss**

Saturday, February 12

"Hear the Sound of One Hand: Reflections on the Art of Zen Master Hakuin"

Lecture in Stern Auditorium at 2 pm

Walk-through at 3 pm

Taiko drumming at 4 pm

##### **Exhibition Walk-throughs**

Friday, February 11, March 11 & April 15, at 6 pm

Friday, February 25 & April 1, at noon

##### **Tea Ceremony Demonstrations**

Friday, February 11, February 25, March 11 & April 15, at 7 pm

##### **Film Screenings**

Friday, February 25 at 7 pm – *Rashomon* in Stern Auditorium

Friday, March 11 at 6:30 pm – *Yojimbo* in Stern Auditorium

Friday, April 15 at 6:30 pm - *Tekkon Kinkreet* anime film in Stern Auditorium

##### **Artist Demonstration - Japanese Wood Block Printing**

Friday, March 11 at 5:30 to 7:30 pm

##### **Lecture & Demonstration: "The Creation of Zen Calligraphy"**

Friday, April 8, 2011; 6:30 – 8 pm

John Stevens, Zen Priest, Martial Arts Expert and Art Historian

**SPECIAL HOTEL RATE**

The Sheraton New Orleans at 500 Canal Street is offering a special rate for visitors traveling from out of town. Rooms are \$99 a night based on availability. Please call (504) 595-5555 or visit [www.sheratonneworleans.com/noma](http://www.sheratonneworleans.com/noma).

**NOMA ADMISSION**

Wednesdays are FREE for all museum visitors. Adults, \$10; Seniors (65 and up) and Students, \$8; Children 7-17, \$6; Children 6 and under, free.

Free Wednesdays are 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 Fridays from 10 am to 9 pm and Tuesdays 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 free. The Sculpture Garden is open seven days a week from 10 am until 5 pm except for Fridays when it's open until 8:45 pm. 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](http://www.noma.org).

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