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Contact: Margaux Krane
(504) 658-4106
mkrane@noma.org

**NEW ORLEANS MUSEUM OF ART PROMISED MOST SIGNIFICANT
GIFT OF PHOTOGRAPHS IN ITS HISTORY**

Museum to Acquire More Than 1,300 works from the Collection of Tina Freeman

New Orleans, LA (September 11, 2018) – Today, the New Orleans Museum of Art (NOMA) announced the largest and most significant single gift of photographs in the institution’s history, a promised bequest of over 1,300 photographs from the private collection of Tina Freeman. Over the past forty years, Freeman, former curator of photographs at NOMA (1977-1982), noted photographer, and longtime supporter of the museum, has brought together a comprehensive collection of 350 photographers dating from the 1840s to today, ranging from works by photography pioneers Hill & Adamson, to vintage prints by Eugene Atget, Richard Avedon, Ilse Bing, Margaret Bourke-White, Lewis Hine, Dorothea Lange, Sally Mann, Irving Penn, Alfred Stieglitz, Doris Ullman, William Wegman, and Edward Weston. This promised gift also marks the occasion of the centennial of NOMA’s first photography exhibition and the Tricentennial of the city of New Orleans.

“For years, Tina Freeman has had a profound impact on photography at NOMA,” said Susan Taylor, the Montine McDaniel Freeman Director of the New Orleans Museum of Art. “Her remarkably generous gift is a reflection of her knowledge and passion for photography and the great photographers that define the medium. It is a milestone moment in the history of NOMA.”

The collection is particularly strong in work by women photographers, many of whom are not currently in NOMA’s collection. For example, the bequest gives NOMA its first photographs by Frances Benjamin Johnston, an important photojournalist in the first half of the twentieth century who is best known for her work in the American South, and who lived in the French Quarter in New Orleans at the end of her life.

A selection of 23 works from Freeman’s promised gift will be featured in the upcoming exhibition *Past Present Future: Building Photography at the New Orleans Museum of Art*, on view September 7, 2018 through March 17, 2019. NOMA plans to produce a catalogue of the full collection in the coming years.

“Tina Freeman began collecting in the early 1970s, at a time when many museums were not yet paying attention to photography,” said Russell Lord, Freeman Family Curator of Photographs at NOMA. “As a result of her prescient decision, her collection includes many priceless masterworks no longer available to museums and collectors today.”

NOMA

About NOMA and the Besthoff Sculpture Garden

The New Orleans Museum of Art, founded in 1910 by Isaac Delgado, houses more than 40,000 art objects encompassing 5,000 years of world art. Works from the permanent collection, along with continuously changing special exhibitions, are on view in the museum's 46 galleries Fridays from 10AM to 9PM; Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10AM to 6PM; Saturdays from 10AM to 5PM and Sundays from 11AM to 5PM. NOMA offers docent-guided tours at 1PM every Tuesday - Sunday. The adjoining Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden features work by over 60 artists, including several of the 20th century's master sculptors. The Sculpture Garden is open seven days a week: 9AM to 6PM. 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 about NOMA, call (504) 658-4100 or visit www.noma.org. Museum admission is free on Wednesdays for Louisiana residents, courtesy of The Helis Foundation. Teenagers (ages 13-19) receive free admission every day through the end of the year, courtesy of The Helis Foundation.

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