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**ART IN BLOOM 2019 LOOKS TO THE FUTURE AT NOMA**

*Illuminations: Looking Within and Beyond in Partnership  
with IBERIABANK March 27-31*

**NEW ORLEANS, LA** – With a focus on light, transformation and discovery, the theme of Art in Bloom 2019 at the New Orleans Museum of Art (NOMA) is *Illuminations: Looking Within and Beyond*. This highly anticipated springtime event takes place March 27-31. After an extraordinary Tricentennial year of reflection and celebration, 2019 presents the opportunity to look ahead with limitless imagination and innovation. *Illuminations: Looking Within and Beyond* is in partnership with IBERIABANK.

Floral arrangements on view in *Illuminations* will echo NOMA's special exhibition *Keith Sonnier: Until Today*. The first comprehensive museum survey for conceptual artist Keith Sonnier, *Until Today* presents the artist's illustrious works in neon, as well as rarely exhibited works in sound, satin, radio waves, and bamboo that demonstrate Sonnier's interest in the way architecture, light and form commingle to shape human experience, communication and interconnection.

Catherine Makk of the NOMA Volunteer Committee and Sweet Dupuy of The Garden Study Club are co-chairing *Illuminations*. "This year's Art in Bloom celebrates truly celebrates New Orleans now," said co-chair Catherine Makk. "We are thrilled to bring the city's leading innovators and influencers together at NOMA to define the modern New Orleans experience using florals, botanicals, and an inventive use of light."

In collaboration with The Garden Study Club, this five-day event showcases more than 75 exhibitors of spectacular floral designs. Proceeds benefit educational projects and exhibitions at NOMA, and community projects of the Garden Study Club of New Orleans. Recipients of Garden Study Club grants include the New Orleans Botanical Garden, Long Vue House and Gardens, the historic parterre garden at the Beauregard-Keyes House, rain gardens at City Park, and the Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden.

**Patron Party, Preview Party, Lecture Series and Fashion Show**

The annual Art in Bloom Patron Party and the subsequent Preview Party will be held Wednesday, March 27. With cuisine and libations from more than 25 top New Orleans restaurants and caterers, guests can enjoy an exclusive preview of the floral displays at the premier social event of the season.

One of the distinguishing elements of the Patron Party is the silent auction, which will feature an online component, allowing art enthusiasts to bid on more than 75 unique pieces of art. The

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featured auction item this year is a video installation by New Orleans artist Courtney Egan, whose work has been featured in the NOMA exhibitions *Pride of Place: The Making of Contemporary Art in New Orleans* and *Ear to the Ground: Earth and Element in Contemporary Art*.

The popular Art in Bloom lecture series and the annual Art in Bloom luncheon and fashion show are scheduled for the following day, Thursday, March 28. Lecturers are professional florists Putnam & Putnam and interior designer Nicky Haslam.

Founded in 2014 by Darroch Putnam, a photographer by trade, and Michael Putnam, a formally trained interior designer, the Putnams' signature floral designs meld site-specific drama with gentle precision, garnering the attention of high-profile clients including Bergdorf Goodman, Vogue, Harper's Bazaar, and Gwyneth Paltrow. Most recently, they have authored *The Flower Color Guide*, the first reference book to organize flower types by color. The Putnams will be speaking about their design philosophy while presenting a hands-on floral demonstration.

Nicky Haslam is one of the world's most distinguished and prolifically published interior designers, renowned for opulent, original and timeless interiors around the world. As seen in *Architectural Digest*, *World of Interiors*, *Vogue*, *House and Garden*, *Elle Décor*, and *Traditional Home*, his projects combine a unique sense of history with a modern, contemporary outlook. A legendary raconteur, Nicky will be sharing his wide-ranging perspective on interior design and the garden.

A luncheon and fashion show presented by Saks Fifth Avenue will take place in the Pavilion of the Two Sisters in City Park following the lectures.

For event information, visit: <https://noma.org/event/art-in-bloom-2019/>

## **About NOMA and the Besthoff Sculpture Garden**

The New Orleans Museum of Art, founded in 1910 by Isaac Delgado, houses more than 40,000 works of art encompassing 5,000 years of history. Works from the permanent collection, along with continuously changing special exhibitions, are on view in the museum's 46 galleries Tuesday through Thursday from 10 AM to 6 PM, Friday from 10 AM to 9 PM, Saturdays from 10 AM to 5 PM and Sundays from 11 AM to 5 PM. NOMA offers docent-guided tours at 1 PM Tuesday - Sunday. The adjoining Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden features work by more than 85 artists, including several 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>-century master sculptors. NOMA's Besthoff Sculpture Garden is free and open to the public seven days a week: 9 AM to 6 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 about NOMA, call (504) 658-4100 or visit [www.noma.org](http://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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