



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LYCÉE FRANÇAIS DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS HOLDS SCHOOL
AT THE OGDEN MUSEUM OF SOUTHERN ART**

*second grade students to spend six weeks
learning, creating and exploring in the studio classroom program*

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Beginning in early January, the Ogden Museum of Southern Art will become an interactive classroom for second grade students from Lycée Français de la Nouvelle-Orléans. During this innovative program, six second grade classrooms will spend their entire school day at the Museum, exploring the exhibitions and creating works of art, while also continuing their general studies. Each class will spend an entire week at the Museum.

While in residence at the Ogden Museum, students will work with teaching artist and Ogden Museum Curriculum Coordinator, Suzanna Ritz, who will lead the classes on gallery tours and explorations of several artists' works currently on exhibition. Artists investigated will include Benny Andrews, Elemore Morgan, Jr., Kendall Shaw, and Robert Warrens, among many others. After close observation and discussion of the work, students will have an opportunity to create their own artwork in the Education Department's Studio Classroom. Some projects planned include creating mixed-media portraits investigating the technique and style of Benny Andrews and abstract landscapes based on Elemore Morgan Jr.'s vibrantly colored southern scenes. During the school day, Lycée Français teachers will also present expository writing, math, science and social studies lessons informed and inspired by the artists and artworks on view at the Museum.

This inventive collaboration between the Museum and Lycée Français is a successful example of how the arts can and should be included in the regular school curriculum. Education Coordinator Ellen Balkin explains, "The program is a natural extension of our existing school and community outreach programs. Since the Ogden Museum reflects a distinctly Southern experience, local students can easily relate to our artwork that often echoes their own personal histories and experiences. Because of this relationship, the program provides a unique opportunity for students to develop connections to art and to their own creativity. We are thrilled to offer the Studio Classroom Program to the students of Lycée Français."

More information about the Education Department's program can be found by visiting www.ogdenmuseum.org.

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Located in the vibrant Warehouse Arts District of downtown New Orleans, Louisiana, the Ogden Museum of Southern Art holds the largest collection of Southern art and is recognized for its original exhibitions, public events, and educational programs which examine the development of visual art alongside Southern traditions of music, literature, and culinary heritage to provide a comprehensive story of the South. Established in 1999 and in Stephen Goldring Hall since 2003, the Museum welcomes almost 80,000 visitors annually, and attracts diverse audiences through its broad range of programming including exhibitions, lectures, film screenings, and concerts which are all part of its mission to broaden the knowledge, understanding, interpretation, and appreciation of the visual arts and culture of the American South.

The Ogden Museum is open Wednesday through Monday from 10AM-5PM and also on Thursdays from 6-8PM for Ogden After Hours. Admission is free to Museum Members and \$13.50 for adults, \$11 for seniors 65 and older, \$7.25 for children ages 5-17 and free for children under 5.

The Ogden Museum is free to Louisiana Residents on Thursdays from 10AM-5PM courtesy of The Helis Foundation. The Helis Foundation is a Louisiana private foundation, established by the William Helis Family. The Art Funds of the Helis Foundation advance access to the arts for the community through contributions that sustain operations for, provide free admission to, acquire works of art, and underwrite major exhibitions and projects of institutions within the Greater New Orleans area.

The Museum is closed Martin Luther King Day, Lundi Gras and Mardi Gras, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Years Day.

The Museum is located at 925 Camp Street, New Orleans Louisiana 70130. For more information visit ogdenmuseum.org or call [504-539-9650](tel:504-539-9650).