



For Immediate Release
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**OGDEN MUSEUM OF SOUTHERN ART CELEBRATES
AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH**

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The Ogden Museum will celebrate African American History Month by promoting the life, work, and achievements of several African American artists in the museum's permanent collection. Throughout the month of February, the museum will offer educational activities based on the work of these artists through museum programming and through an online portal.

Activities will take place Thursdays, 6 to 8pm, during Ogden After Hours, the museum's weekly concert series. Downloadable art activity worksheets inspired by important artists of color will also be made available online.

The Ogden Museum will launch a social media campaign every Friday throughout the month highlighting African American artists, their histories and impact on Southern art. Featured artists include Benny Andrews, Bessie Harvey, Robert Reed, Eugene Martin, and Thornton Dial.

An artist guide detailing bios and brief stories about various African American artists currently on view at the Ogden will also be available at the admissions desk to aid in self-guided tours.

"African American artists have an important role in the narrative of Southern art. From the socially-minded work of Benny Andrews to the animistic root sculptures created by Bessie Harvey, they provide unique insight into the African American experience," says Ellen Balkin, Education Manager of the Museum.

"In keeping with the Ogden Museum of Southern Art's continuing endeavor to tell the story of the South, African American History Month provides framework for the museum to place focus on some of the leading voices in that narrative -- those of African American artists," says Bradley Sumrall, Curator of the Collection at the Ogden Museum.

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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).