



*Michalopoulos*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**OGDEN MUSEUM OF SOUTHERN ART PRESENTS LARGEST  
RETROSPECTIVE OF NEW ORLEANS ARTIST JAMES MICHALOPOULOS**

***WALTZING THE MUSE: THE PAINTINGS OF JAMES MICHALOPOULOS***  
March 1-July 16, 2017

**NEW ORLEANS** – On March 1, 2017 the Ogden Museum of Southern Art will open the exhibition *Waltzing the Muse: The Paintings of James Michalopoulos*, a 30 year retrospective celebrating one of the South's most influential artists.

The exhibition highlights the artist's decades long exploration of what it means to experience New Orleans' culture through the intersection of art, architecture and music. *Waltzing the Muse* showcases Michalopoulos' iconic cityscapes that capture the city's eternal dance between decadence and decay—as well as works depicting lesser-known subjects, including anthropomorphic perspectives on classic cars, landscapes and an especially poignant series of portraits featuring local music legends.

*My style is an abstraction of the figurative; I like color, volumetric shape and graphic lines. While one may recognize the subjects of my paintings, through my work one discovers the spirit of them.* – Michalopoulos

The origins of his singular style can be traced to the days when he would venture out on his scooter to paint the New Orleans cityscape at night, while listening to a portable radio tuned to WWOZ. He channeled the rhythms coming from the radio into his subjects – both infusing and animating them with movement.

*I like a picture to dance and I often think of a painting in mystical terms. I'm listening for the inspirational and I express it as a visual lyric. Life is a pulsating, vibrational riot.*  
- Michalopoulos

Originally starting out as a street artist in famed Pirate's Alley, Michalopoulos quickly developed an easily recognizable style that has earned him a place in the permanent collections of the New Orleans Museum of Art, Morris Museum of Art, Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art, Alexandria Museum of Art, Mississippi Museum of Art, as well as the Ogden Museum of Southern Art. He has been honored as the Official Artist of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival six times, more than any other artist in the festival's

history. These highly collectible posters spotlight some of New Orleans' most illustrious musicians: Dr. John, Louis Armstrong, Mahalia Jackson, Fats Domino, Allen Toussaint and Aaron Neville. His work is also in the private collections of John Goodman, Sharon Stone, Bruce Willis, Bonnie Raitt and Jackson Brown, among others.

*Michalopoulos is easily one of the most preeminent figures in contemporary painting in the South. This exhibition explores the three dominant themes of his paintings – the urban landscape of New Orleans, the people that reside there, and the rural landscape of Southern France – offering greater insight into his motivation and his mastery of color and composition.* - Ogden Museum Chief Curator Bradley Sumrall.

A reception celebrating the opening of the exhibition will take place from 6 to 8 PM on March 11, 2017 at the Ogden Museum, and a gallery talk featuring the artist is scheduled for April 2 from 2 to 4 PM.

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*About James Michalopoulos:*

In 1995, Michalopoulos Gallery opened at 617 Bienville Street, in the heart of the historic New Orleans' French Quarter. It is the exclusive representative of the original works by acclaimed artist, James Michalopoulos. His working studio and sculpture garden is at 527 Elysian Fields. Visitations to the studio can be made by appointment. The artist also maintains a home and art gallery in the Burgundy region of France. Michalopoulos is also the founder and proprietor of Celebration Distillation, makers of Old New Orleans Rum and Gingeroo, which is America's oldest continually operating rum distillery.

*About the Ogden Museum of Southern Art:*

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](http://ogdenmuseum.org) or call [504-539-9650](tel:504-539-9650).