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**OGDEN MUSEUM OF SOUTHERN ART ANNOUNCES
ARTHUR KERN: THE SURREAL WORLD OF A RECLUSIVE SCULPTOR
On View March 19 – July 17, 2016**

NEW ORLEANS – February 16, 2016

On Saturday, March 19, 2016, the Ogden Museum of Southern Art will open its latest exhibition, *Arthur Kern: The Surreal Work of a Reclusive Sculptor*. The exhibition will be on view through July 17, and celebrated with an opening reception on Thursday, March 31, from 6 – 8 PM during Ogden After Hours.

Arthur Kern, a retired Tulane Professor of Art, all but withdrew from the outside world thirty years ago. Since then, he has spent much of his time working in his basement studio, creating scores of surreal sculptures that disturb as often as they enchant. Kern's subjects are horses and people, distorted in sometimes fanciful, sometimes macabre ways. His inspiration flows from his unconscious and can therefore be somewhat difficult to fathom, even for the artist himself. Kern has never had much interest in exhibiting or selling his sculptures, and as a result they have accumulated on shelves and table tops in the Uptown New Orleans house he shares with his wife of sixty years.

The exhibition is guest curated by John Berendt, who divides his time between New York and New Orleans, and is the author of two *New York Times* bestsellers, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* and *The City of Falling Angels*. Berendt has delved deeply into Kern's process to craft this exhibition, spending hours interviewing the artist in his home to better understand this complex work.

"It was an exhilarating moment, walking into Arthur Kern's place that day and discovering forty years of his sculptures arrayed throughout the house on shelves and table tops," said Berendt, "there were dozens of them, every one uniquely memorable, even haunting--the elegantly surreal horses, the distorted faces peering through lenses and making bizarre eye-contact with the viewer. Kern's sculptures merge the beautiful and the grotesque in strangely seductive ways. I left his house that day thinking, 'People really ought to see these things!'"

Arthur Kern: The Surreal World of a Reclusive Sculptor includes sixty of Kern's molded polyester resin sculptures, created utilizing methods and techniques of the artist's own invention. It is an impressive retrospective and, at the same time, a surprising and stunning debut.

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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 and most comprehensive collection of Southern art in the world 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 over 77,000 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 every day but Tuesday, 10 am - 5 pm, and till 8 pm every Thursday for Ogden After Hours. Admission is free to Museum Members and \$12.50 for adults, \$10 for seniors 65 and older, \$6.25 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 Museum is closed Saturday through Tuesday of Mardi Gras weekend, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

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