

Artis—Naples

Home of The Baker Museum
and the Naples Philharmonic

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**HELEN FRANKENTHALER: LATE WORKS, 1990-2003,
THE FIRST MUSEUM EXHIBITION DEDICATED TO THE LAST
PHASE OF THE PAINTER'S PROLIFIC CAREER,
OPENS SEPTEMBER 6 AT ARTIS—NAPLES, THE BAKER MUSEUM**

Additional Fall Exhibitions Include:

**JESÚS RAFAEL SOTO: *EXTENSION AND HALF SPHERE*
2022-23 Season, Ongoing Installation**

***ENVISIONING EVIL: "THE NAZI DRAWINGS" BY
MAURICIO LASANSKY*
Opens September 17**

***RAN HWANG: BECOMING AGAIN*
Opens October 22**

Naples, FL (August 29, 2022) – Artis—Naples, home of The Baker Museum and the Naples Philharmonic, today announced the September 6 opening of *Helen Frankenthaler: Late Works, 1990-2003*, a landmark presentation of the artist's innovative work that serves as the anchor for the museum's fall exhibition season.

"This fall, The Baker Museum presents a truly significant slate of exhibitions to launch the 2022-23 season," said CEO and President Kathleen van Bergen. "From a landmark exhibition of the late works of Helen Frankenthaler to stunning multimedia installations by Korean-born artist Ran Hwang, and to the deeply impactful drawings of Mauricio Lasansky chronicling the horrors of the Holocaust, The Baker Museum offers visitors an opportunity to experience thought-provoking works by a range of artists."

"We are very proud of the range of excellence this season represents, and we are very honored to be one of the first museums to present an incredibly important exhibition of Helen Frankenthaler's late works, which explores how she continued to evolve her technique, materials and tools throughout her lifetime," said Museum Director and Chief Curator Courtney McNeil. "*Envisioning Evil: "The Nazi Drawings" by Mauricio Lasansky*, over 50 years after the series' original tour, is its first comprehensive presentation in a generation. And we are delighted to be mounting the first large-scale presentation of the work of Ran Hwang in the southeastern part of the country."

***Helen Frankenthaler: Late Works, 1990-2003*
September 6 through November 27, 2022**

The innovative and experimental soak-stain paintings of Helen Frankenthaler (1928-2011) established her as one of the great artists of the 20th century. This exhibition, on loan from the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation, is the first museum exhibition dedicated to the last phase of the painter's prolific career and features 20 paintings on paper and 10 paintings on canvas.

Frankenthaler played a defining role in the history of postwar American painting. Her innovative soak-stain technique inaugurated the shift from Abstract Expressionism to Color Field painting and influenced artists such as Morris Louis, Jules Olitski, Friedel Dzubas and Kenneth Noland. In Louis' words, Frankenthaler's work was "a bridge between [Jackson] Pollock and what was possible." The works on view in this exhibition demonstrate Frankenthaler's long-standing interest in the relationship between landscape and abstraction and reveal her continued sensitivity to the emotional effects of color.

Helen Frankenthaler: Late Works, 1990-2003 is curated by Douglas Dreishpoon, Director of the Helen Frankenthaler Catalogue Raisonné and Chief Curator Emeritus at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York, with all loans from the collection of the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation. The presentation of the exhibition at The Baker Museum is curated by Courtney McNeil, museum director and chief curator. In-kind support has been provided by the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation.

This exhibition is generously sponsored by Jeri L. Wolfson and the Myra Janco Daniels Legacy Fund.

**Jesús Rafael Soto: *Extension and Half Sphere*
2022-23 Season, Ongoing Installation**

The monumental outdoor sculpture *Extension and Half Sphere* (1991) by Venezuelan artist Jesús Rafael Soto (1923-2005) activates the north lawn of The Baker Museum this season. Composed of acrylic and aluminum, this sculpture exemplifies Soto's pioneering contributions to kinetic art.

Soto began his career as a figurative painter, but a fascination with geometry rapidly led him toward three-dimensional sculpture and abstraction. In 1950, he left his native Venezuela for Paris, where he exhibited at the progressive Galerie Denise René, alongside artists such as Yaacov Agam, Jean Tinguely, Alexander Calder and Victor Vasarely, all pioneering figures in the Op Art and Kinetic Art movements. In this particular sculpture, a series of thin, closely spaced rods create a white-and-yellow semi-spherical form, evoking the wiggling surface of a boiled egg—or the hazy, wavering light of a rising or setting sun. This presentation of *Extension and Half Sphere* is organized by Artis—Naples, The Baker Museum, courtesy of Ascaso Gallery, Miami.

***Envisioning Evil: "The Nazi Drawings" by Mauricio Lasansky*
September 17, 2022 through February 19, 2023**

The son of Jewish immigrants in Argentina, Mauricio Lasansky (1914-2012) forged a flourishing career as an artist in the United States, creating work that often explored themes of war and violence. In 1961, coinciding with the televised trial of the Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann, he began a series of monumental drawings to grapple with the Holocaust. Confronted with the atrocities, he said, "I was full of hate, poison, and I wanted to spit it out."

This exhibition is organized by the Minneapolis Institute of Art and lent by the Levitt Foundation. The exhibition is curated by Rachel McGarry, Ph.D., Elizabeth MacMillan, Chair of European Art and Curator of European Paintings and Works on Paper at the Minneapolis Institute of Art. The presentation of *Envisioning Evil: "The Nazi Drawings" by Mauricio Lasansky* at The Baker Museum is curated by Rangsook Yoon, Ph.D., curator of modern art. The exhibition contents and programming are presented in consultation with the Holocaust Museum & Janet G. and Harvey D. Cohen Education Center, Naples, Florida.

The Artis—Naples exhibition is generously sponsored by the John and Cindy Family Foundation.

***Ran Hwang: Becoming Again*
October 22, 2022 through January 8, 2023**

Korean born, New York- and Seoul-based artist Ran Hwang (b. 1960) creates densely referential artworks and installations deploying buttons, beads, pins and thread, sometimes overlaid with moving video images. Her solo exhibition *Ran Hwang: Becoming Again*, the largest museum presentation of her work in the southeastern United States to date, features Hwang's stunning multimedia works as well as her iconic silhouettes of Buddhas and plum

blossoms. Her assemblages of ordinary everyday objects and multimedia installation works are simultaneously rooted in traditional Korean visual lexicon and deeply steeped in 21st-century global contemporary art practice.

Ran Hwang: Becoming Again is organized by Artis—Naples, The Baker Museum and curated by Rangsook Yoon, Ph.D., curator of modern art.

ARTIS—NAPLES

Home of The Baker Museum and the Naples Philharmonic, Artis—Naples is unique among cultural institutions nationwide, equally dedicated to both the visual and performing arts featuring artists of global distinction.

KIMBERLY K. QUERREY and LOUIS A. SIMPSON CULTURAL CAMPUS

Led by CEO and President Kathleen van Bergen, we offer audiences more than 800 paid and free events annually within a variety of venues and settings situated throughout the 8.5-acre Kimberly K. Querrey and Louis A. Simpson Cultural Campus. Artis—Naples welcomes thousands of visitors each year for a broad array of artistic and educational opportunities perfect for audiences of all backgrounds and interests. The cultural campus is home to five buildings, including two performance halls (Frances Pew Hayes Hall and Myra J. Daniels Pavilion), The Baker Museum, the Toni Stabile Education Building and the Kohan Administration Building.

NAPLES PHILHARMONIC

The Naples Philharmonic has long been recognized as one of the cornerstones of Southwest Florida's arts community. As part of Artis—Naples, the Naples Philharmonic performs more than 140 orchestral and chamber music concerts, as well as opera and ballet, education, community and special event concerts annually between September and June in the 1,477-seat Hayes Hall, the 283-seat Daniels Pavilion and around the Southwest Florida region.

The Naples Philharmonic has enjoyed a history of working with world-class music directors, with Andrey Boreyko being the fourth and most recent. Following the completion of Boreyko's eighth and final season in 2022, a search is underway for the Sharon and Timothy Ubben Music Director position. Other podium leadership includes Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly, celebrating 13 years in this role in the 2022-23 season and bringing pops performances that celebrate music in its many forms. In 2017, conductor Radu Paponiu was named assistant conductor of the Naples Philharmonic and director of the Naples Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, and in 2019 he was promoted to associate conductor.

THE BAKER MUSEUM

The Baker Museum is one of the foremost fine art museums in Southwest Florida. The museum hosts several traveling exhibitions annually to complement installations of works from its permanent collection. Comprising more than 4,000 objects, the museum's broad holdings of 20th- and 21st-century art reflect the generosity and commitment of area collectors. Of particular strength are The Baker Museum's collections of American and Mexican modern art, including significant gifts from the collection of Olga Hirshhorn.

With more than two decades of collecting and exhibiting, the museum is dedicated to stewardship and scholarship from both its growing permanent collection and outside sources. At the same time, The Baker Museum seeks out the best traveling exhibitions from the leading arts institutions in the world—including recently the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and the Smithsonian Institutions—to enrich the Southwest Florida community. In fall 2020, Artis—Naples celebrated the opening of an 18,000-square-foot expansion of The Baker Museum, designed by Weiss/Manfredi Architecture/Landscape/Urbanism, that created new spaces for multidisciplinary exploration and social interaction.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY

In addition to creating and presenting visual and performing arts, Artis—Naples provides robust education and community activities for students of all ages. Each season thousands of Collier County Public Schools interact with Artis—Naples education programming both on its cultural campus and in classrooms. The Lifelong Learning program provides engaging lectures and study opportunities for adults seeking to engage more deeply with the arts.

The Friends of Artis—Naples, with more than 3,400 households who give \$75 or more, offers activities, travel experiences and events geared toward creating a deeper relationship between patrons and the arts.

In 2017, Artis—Naples acquired the Naples International Film Festival (NIFF), expanding its film offerings and providing a platform for the festival’s continued excellence and growth. In 2019, NIFF was named one of *MovieMaker* Magazine’s “Top 25 Coolest Film Festivals in the World,” and in 2022 celebrates its 14th year in the community.

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