

Artis—Naples

Home of The Baker Museum
and the Naples Philharmonic

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ARTIS—NAPLES ANNOUNCES ARTIST SELECTIONS FOR FLORIDA CONTEMPORARY 2022-23

***Edouard Duval-Carrié, Ya Levy La'ford
and Robert Rivers
selected for annual exhibition featuring notable
visual artists practicing in Florida***

Naples, FL (August 15, 2022) – Artis—Naples, home of The Baker Museum and the Naples Philharmonic, today announced the three artists selected for The Baker Museum exhibition *Florida Contemporary 2022-23*, opening on October 14 in the Hayes Hall galleries: Edouard Duval-Carrié, Miami; Ya Levy La'ford, Tampa; and Robert Rivers, Maitland.

CEO and President Kathleen van Bergen said, “Each season, *Florida Contemporary* presents a select group of notable visual artists practicing in Florida and highlights the diversity of artistic approaches to personal, local and global themes. The 10th edition of this annual exhibition invites visitors to celebrate the state’s vibrant art scene and certainly demonstrates the breadth and range of artistic expression in Florida.”

“This year, The Baker Museum team collaborated to create a strong edition of *Florida Contemporary* presenting three incredible artists: Edouard Duval-Carrié, Ya Levy La'ford and Robert Rivers, who represent diverse artistic interests and backgrounds and practice in a variety of locations throughout Florida,” said Museum Director and Chief Curator Courtney McNeil. “We are thrilled at the opportunity to work with these outstanding artists and to present their work to our visitors.”

Born and raised in Haiti, Edouard Duval-Carrié (b. 1954) fled the regime of “Papa Doc” Duvalier as a teenager and subsequently resided in Puerto Rico, New York, Montreal and Paris and now lives in Miami. A multidisciplinary artist and curator, Duval-Carrié’s works touch upon the complexities of the Caribbean and its diaspora and have been exhibited in major museums, art institutions and galleries in Africa, Europe and the Americas.

Ya Levy La'ford (b. 1979) is an artist and educator based in Tampa, working between the visual and the complexities of the human community with layered meanings—through a wide range of media including paint, sculpture, installation, video and sound. Her work can be found as sculpture, installation, mural design and exterior facades with a focus on the language of geometric design, symbols and ethnography.

Robert Rivers (b. 1950) is a printmaker, painter and professor of art at University of Central Florida in Orlando. In April 2010, Rivers’ nephew, Thomas Rivers, who had been deployed as a Marine in Afghanistan, was killed, and Rivers began to create a series of drawings in response to his nephew’s death. In the fall of 2017, he began joining these drawings into large panels measuring more than five feet high, launching his ongoing, epic drawing series called *The Promised Land*. His drawings are done in graphite red pencil, acrylic glazes, oil paint and other media. At last count, the series numbered 350 large-scale panels.

Florida Contemporary 2022-23 is organized by Artis—Naples, The Baker Museum, and is curated by Rangsook Yoon, Ph.D., curator of modern art, and Courtney McNeil, museum director and chief curator. The exhibition will be on view October 14 through July 16, 2023.

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.