

# Artis—Naples

*Home of The Baker Museum  
and the Naples Philharmonic*

Contact: Melanie Kalnins, Vice President of Marketing and Patron Engagement  
mkalnins@artisnaples.org | 239-254-2602

Website: [artisnaples.org](http://artisnaples.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/ArtisNaples](https://facebook.com/ArtisNaples)

Twitter: [@artisnaples](https://twitter.com/artisnaples) | Instagram: [artisnaples](https://www.instagram.com/artisnaples)

## **LOVE STORIES FROM THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY, LONDON AT ARTIS—NAPLES, THE BAKER MUSEUM, FEBRUARY 4 THROUGH MAY 7**

**Naples, FL (January 30, 2023)** — Artis—Naples, The Baker Museum will be the final U.S. stop on the tour for *Love Stories from the National Portrait Gallery, London*—a special exhibition of portraits focused on love and desire. On the road due to renovations at its permanent home, this collection of top tier artwork is rarely seen outside of the National Portrait Gallery, which houses the largest collection of portraits in the world.

Spotlighting relationships between noted pairs and couples in Western art from the Renaissance to the present day, this exhibition (February 4–May 7) features artists ranging from Thomas Gainsborough and Sir Joshua Reynolds to Man Ray and David Hockney, as well as other living artists and photographers. The storytelling through these works of art offers every type of love story, from the tragic love affair to forbidden love to celebrating the triumph of love against the odds.

“This exhibition includes a dazzling range of artists, as well as styles,” says museum director and chief curator Courtney McNeil, “and it represents hundreds of years of masterpieces. I’m particularly excited about the Hockney work, but it’s so hard to pick just one to look forward to seeing. It’s such a treat to be able to offer it to our audiences, and we’re pleased that some of the subjects tie in so well with some of the other Artis—Naples’ programming, too.”

The idea of exploring different types of love is one that choreographer Martha Graham used in her ballet, *Diversion of Angels*, which examines a similar theme through the lens of dance and movement, rather than painting or photography. Miami City Ballet performs the work on February 28 as part of the Artis—Naples Dance series. Earlier this season, Artis—Naples’ Wang Chamber Music Series featured music by both Benjamin Britten and Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, both of whom are depicted in portraits in The Baker Museum’s exhibition, which was called “delicious” in a review by the *Boston Globe*.

Two lectures dedicated to this special exhibition also take place during its time at Artis—Naples. On February 9, National Portrait Gallery head of collection displays and senior curator Lucy Peltz, Ph.D., who curated this exhibition, will introduce *A Portrait of ‘Love Stories’* and tell some of the real-life stories behind the subjects of these portraits typically found across London’s National Portrait Gallery. The lecture traces love from the strict courtly traditions of the Renaissance, through its changing perceptions over time to today’s emphasis on love as a form of human expression and a key feature of fulfillment.

A second discussion takes place in March with Metropolitan Museum of Art associate curator Adam Eaker, Ph.D, titled *Sittings, Seductions, and the English Portrait*, which explores the written appeal of portrait sittings. He examines a range of English writers’ literary responses to the process of portrait sitting, such as those from Ben Jonson and Robert Browning. These texts, which include some of the great poems in the English language, help us

to understand why portraits, and the process of creating them, have held such a central position in English culture.

This unique collection of couples and love stories in portraiture runs through May 7, 2023. Tickets (\$10 for adults; \$5 for students and military with ID; Free for ages 5-17) and additional information can be found at [artisnaples.org](http://artisnaples.org).

*The Artis—Naples exhibition is generously sponsored by the Collier County Tourist Development Council and Waterside Shops.*

***Love Stories from the National Portrait Gallery, London***  
**February 4 through May 7**  
**The Baker Museum, third floor**

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### **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. As the search continues, Artis—Naples has appointed violinist James Ehnes as an artistic partner for the 2022-23 season, working with Naples Philharmonic musicians in a variety of settings with a focus on inspiring and embodying a high level of artistry. 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. Starting with the 2022-23 season, Alvin Ho has joined the artistic team as assistant conductor of the Naples Philharmonic.

### **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 celebrated its 14th year in the community.

#### **NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY**

Founded in 1856, the National Portrait Gallery tells the story of Britain through portraits, using art to bring history to life and explore living today. From global icons, to unsung heroes, the collection is filled with the stories that have shaped, and continue to shape, a nation. The Gallery celebrates the power of portraiture and offers encounters with some of the world’s greatest and most exciting new artists, promoting engagement with portraiture in all media to a wide-ranging public by conserving, growing and sharing the world’s largest collection of portraits.

The Gallery in St Martin’s Place, London is currently closed until June 22, 2023, while essential building works take place on the *Inspiring People* redevelopment project, which will transform the Gallery, including a complete refurbishment of the building and a new learning center. During the closure period, the Gallery has continued to share its collection digitally, as well as through a series of nationwide partnerships and collaborations. [www.npg.org.uk](http://www.npg.org.uk)