

Artis—Naples

*Home of The Baker Museum
and the Naples Philharmonic*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 19, 10:30am

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ARTIS—NAPLES, THE BAKER MUSEUM TO EXHIBIT SIX WORKS BY RENÉ MAGRITTE, NEVER BEFORE SEEN IN NORTH AMERICA

**OPENING IN DECEMBER, THE EXHIBITION MARKS THE
FIRST PRESENTATION OF THESE WORKS SINCE 1971**

Naples, FL., Artis—Naples, The Baker Museum today announced a unique five-year loan of six paintings by René Magritte. The works have never previously been shown in North America and were last exhibited in 1971 in Kyoto, Japan.

The exhibition of these works, titled *Magritte: Reflections of Another World*, opens December 1, 2019 to the public, and coincides with the highly anticipated reopening of The Baker Museum exhibitions in Naples, Florida. The Baker Museum has been closed for two years after sustaining damage from Hurricane Irma, and is currently undergoing a comprehensive renovation, restoration and expansion by the New York-based architecture firm WEISS/MANFREDI. The Museum will reopen fully in January 2020. Artis—Naples is a multidisciplinary organization and is also home of the Naples Philharmonic.

The works were part of the collection of the late Jean Van Parys and are on loan to Artis—Naples, The Baker Museum from his daughter. The works comprise five oils and one gouache painting and are as follows:

L'ombre Monumentale (The Monumental Shadow), 1932

Le Civilisateur (The Civilizer), 1944

La Tour d'Ivoire (The Ivory Tower), 1945

L'île au Trésor (Treasure Island), 1945

Les Grandes Vacances (Summer Holidays), 1956

Shéhérazade, 1947

All can be found in Magritte's Catalogue Raisonné.

"A beautiful kismet has brought these important and rarely seen works to southwest Florida," said CEO and President Kathleen van Bergen. "We are eager to invite a global audience to view the works and help us celebrate such a significant milestone in our history as a multidisciplinary organization."

The origin of the exhibition is a remarkable story of individual patronage and a testament to the community of Naples, Florida. During the orchestra's March 2019 performance of Stravinsky's *Firebird*, a season subscriber approached an Artis—Naples usher with her business card and an unusual story.

The usher connected the patron to the appropriate Museum staff, to whom she made the offer to loan a collection of works that had been in her family's possession for more than sixty years. As an avid supporter of Artis—Naples, it was the lender's wish that the works be shown at an institution so meaningful to her personally.

“I am so happy to be able to see these beautiful paintings anytime I wish, and I am pleased to share them with everyone to enjoy, especially at this exciting time for The Baker Museum,” said the current owner and lender.

The original owner of the works was Jean Van Parys, an attorney, avid collector of art and close friend of Magritte, and has rarely been discussed in literature about the artist. The six paintings that stayed within the collector’s family are conceptually diverse and reflect very distinct moments throughout the artist’s life.

“These works represent a variety of styles within Magritte’s career from 1932 to 1956,” says guest curator and noted surrealism scholar, Dr. Elliott H. King. “From his Renoir period of the 40s to his more dreamlike style, learning about works so rarely seen gives us a great opportunity for new insight into Magritte and his artistic language.”

King will serve as guest curator for the exhibition and will lecture about the works in February 2020.

More information and photos of the works can be found at artisnaples.org. The works will be displayed from December 1, 2019-July 25, 2020.

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 and Sharon and Timothy Ubben Music Director Andrey Boreyko, 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 more than 300,000 visitors each year for a broad array of artistic and educational opportunities perfect for audiences of all backgrounds and interests. The Kimberly K. Querrey and Louis A. Simpson 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.

In the 2014-15 season, Andrey Boreyko assumed the title of Music Director and serves in this capacity for Artis—Naples. Boreyko is internationally recognized as one of the most exciting and dynamic conductors working today. This appointment, extended through 2022, marks his first American post.

The Wall Street Journal says van Bergen and Boreyko have ushered in “an impressive new phase” for classical music in Southwest Florida.

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.

Jack Everly is Principal Pops Conductor and in the 2019-20 season celebrates 10 years in this role, bringing pops performances that celebrate music in its many forms. In 2017, Romanian conductor Radu Paponiu was named Assistant Conductor of the Naples Philharmonic and director of the Naples Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, and in 2019 was promoted to Associate Conductor.

THE BAKER MUSEUM

The Baker Museum is one of the foremost fine arts museums in Southwest Florida. The museum hosts several traveling exhibitions annually to complement installations of works from

its permanent collections. Comprising more than 3,500 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 Museum's collections of American and Mexican modern art and significant gifts from the personal collection of Olga Hirshhorn.

With almost two decades of collecting and exhibiting, the Museum is dedicated to stewardship and scholarship from both its growing permanent collections 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, Smithsonian Institutions and École des Beaux-Arts, Paris—to enrich the Southwest Florida community.

The Baker Museum exhibitions will reopen to the public on December 1, 2019, after being closed for more than two years in the wake of Hurricane Irma. The repair of the museum was paired with a simultaneous expansion of the building to the south, which creates new spaces for multidisciplinary exploration and social interaction. This expansion will open in January 2020.

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. More than 45,000 students from Collier County Public Schools interact with Artis—Naples education programming each year 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 4000 members, 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 2018, NIFF celebrated its tenth year in the community, and in 2019, NIFF was named one of *MovieMaker* Magazine's Top 25 Coolest Film Festivals in the World.

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