

Artis—Naples

Home of The Baker Museum
and the Naples Philharmonic

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ARTIS—NAPLES ANNOUNCES GIFT OF PAM LONGOBARDI'S *SWERVE* TO THE BAKER MUSEUM PERMANENT COLLECTION

Naples, FL (April 20, 2022) – Artis—Naples announced today a significant acquisition to The Baker Museum permanent collection: *Serve*, by Pam Longobardi, currently on view in the exhibition *Pam Longobardi: Ocean Gleaning*. This acquisition was made possible by a generous gift from Anne and Mark Rubin. Created in 2019, the wall-mounted work consists of more than 500 ocean plastic objects from Alaska, Greece, California, Hawaii, the Gulf of Mexico and Costa Rica. The exhibition is on view through July 24 on the first floor of The Baker Museum.

Kathleen van Bergen, CEO and president, said “We are deeply grateful to Anne and Mark Rubin for supporting this important addition to The Baker Museum permanent collection. *Ocean Gleaning* reminds us of how we can each do our part to collectively protect our natural resources, and *Serve* is representative of the importance of Pam Longobardi’s work. The pieces are beautiful and alluring: Upon closer inspection, they reveal what they are made of, and then they ask us to think about the crisis taking place in our oceans.”

Museum Director and Chief Curator Courtney McNeil echoes van Bergen’s thanks to the Rubins and said she believes the exhibition has inspired many visitors to be more cognizant of the effects of our consumption and lifestyle on the planet as a whole—especially the oceans.

“Thanks to Anne and Mark, *Serve* will become a part of our growing permanent collection of more than 4,000 works of modern and contemporary art,” McNeil said. “We are pleased to announce this acquisition just in time for Earth Day this year, as Longobardi’s timely work serves as a stark reminder of just how much plastic—which poses great danger to ocean life—is in our oceans at any given time. It’s an honor to add this significant piece to our collection.”

Longobardi, who is regents’ professor at the Ernest G. Welch School of Art & Design at Georgia State University in Atlanta, has been working with found ocean plastics for more than 15 years, since discovering the mountainous piles of plastic debris the ocean was depositing on the remote shores of Hawaii. She refers to this body of work as the Drifters Project. In collaboration with local communities, Longobardi has cleaned beaches around the globe—including Clam Pass in Naples—removing tens of thousands of pounds of plastic from the environment and converting them into epic artworks.

“I am interested in the collision between nature and culture,” Longobardi said. “Ocean plastic is a material that can unleash unpredictable dynamics and has profound stories to tell: The ocean is communicating with us through the materials of our own making.”

Longobardi is represented in public and private collections, including the Maier Museum of Art, Lynchburg, Virginia; Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas; and many others.

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 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.

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, which concludes in 2022, is 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 2021-22 season celebrates 12 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, 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 and significant gifts from the personal 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 4,000 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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