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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**2023 Gala to Honor Roger Ogden Will Help Support the Refurbishment of the Historic Hays Town-designed Building**

*Lafayette, LA* **-** TheHilliard Art Museum announced today a gala to honor Roger Houston Ogden and his legacy as a collector of Southern art. [The 2023 Gala at the Museum, A Night to Honor Roger Ogden](https://hilliardmuseum.org/calendar/night-to-honor-roger-ogden-gala) will take place Jan. 19, 2023 and will feature a cocktail reception, seated dinner and a preview of [*Envisioning the South: The Roger Houston Ogden Collection*](https://hilliardmuseum.org/exhibits/envisioning-the-south-the-roger-houston-ogden-collection). Tickets are available [via Eventbrite and seating is limited.](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-gala-a-night-to-honor-roger-ogden-tickets-385745534277)

“As a pre-eminent collector and founder of the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, Roger Ogden set a precedent for how art historians and collectors define and interpret a southern aesthetic”, states Director LouAnne Greenwald. “He is the foremost champion of Southern art, and we are honored to welcome him home for this celebration of his legacy.”

For the event, Hilliard will transform its main exhibition gallery into the beauty of a Louisiana landscape, offering an evening of local entertainment and special guests fit for the occasion. Attendees also will be the first to see “Envisioning the South: The Roger Houston Ogden Collection”, a new exhibition chronicling Ogden’s evolution as an art collector, a survey of his collection, from representational art works to non-objective abstraction to photography from his collection and namesake museum, the Ogden Museum of Southern Art.

This special event is an opportunity to further the museum’s educational impact – funds raised will support the creation of an educational classroom, and a café in the historic [A. Hays Town-designed building](https://hilliardmuseum.org/about/the-building) adjacent to the Hilliard Art Museum, preserving a cultural landmark and making it more accessible.

“Serving UL students as well as toddlers through seniors in the community, our education programs provide life-long learning through the arts, fostering visual thinking, creative expression and empathy for others - critical skills for all ages. We look forward to bringing campus and community together in this beloved building.”

The morning after the gala, ticket holders are invited to a symposium titled, *Southern Aesthetics and Connoisseurship: In Conversation with Roger Ogden.* The half-day event at the LITE Center features presentations by Curator Benjamin Hickey, Hilliard Art Museum; Curator Bradley Sumrall, Ogden Museum of Southern Art; and Roger Houston Ogden.

Hilliard wishes to thank our sponsors: Stirling Properties, Oats and Marino, Dr. Jay Culotta, Haynie Family Foundation, Paul and Madlyn Hilliard, Badger Energy, LLC, JohnPac, The Helis Foundation, Shannon and John K. Hill, Dr. and Mrs. Henry Kaufman, IV, Art LeBlanc, Stephanie and Pete November, Kathryn and Jeffrey Scurlock. And our patrons: Elaine Durbin Abell and Edward C. Abell, Jr., Pilar Blanco Eble in honor of Governor Kathleen Blanco, Marguerite and Greg Bordelon, Bridget and Charles Boustany, Tiffa and Kerry Boutté, Colleen and John Chappuis, Dorothy Clyne, Becky and Wyatt Collins, Merilyn Crain, Rita Durio and Associates, Eskew Dumez Ripple, Kiki and Rick Frayard, Janet and Joel Gooch, Anne and Kevin Gossen, Phyllis and Billy Keaty, Cherie and Ralph Kraft, Tracy and Frank Neuner, Dr. Pat O’Brien, Ph.D. and Mr. Peter W. Patout, Ochsner Lafayette General Foundation, Preservation Alliance of Lafayette, Rosalind and Sam Robertson, Catherine and Matt Saurage, Susan and Louis Simon, Dr. William "Kip" and Carolyn Doerle Schumacher, Bettie Skains Sonnier and Eileen Sonnier, University of Louisiana at Lafayette and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Foundation and Donna and John Wright. Additional in-kind support is provided by The Times Picayune | The Advocate, Party Central, Chef John Folse & Company, Billy Heroman’s Flowers, Clark Services Audio Visual & Exhibit, Inc., Sweet Magnolias, and Louisiana Seafood Board.

[The 2023 Gala at the Museum, A Night to Honor Roger Ogden](https://hilliardmuseum.org/calendar/night-to-honor-roger-ogden-gala)

**DATE:** Thursday, January 19, 2023

**TIME:** 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.

**LOCATION:** 710 East St. Mary Blvd., Lafayette, LA 70503

**DETAILS:** Tickets to the cocktail reception, seated dinner, exhibit preview and symposium are $600 each and available through Dec. 2, 2022. Purchase tickets via [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-gala-a-night-to-honor-roger-ogden-tickets-385745534277) or call 337-482-0817. For more information, including additional sponsorship opportunities, contact Christina Lake at 337-482-6060.

**ABOUT THE HILLIARD ART MUSEUM:**

Our Museum is a bridge. Our Museum is a catalyst. Our Museum is for everyone. We connect art and education, our university and our community, generations and cultures. The Hilliard Art Museum-University of Louisiana at Lafayette is not just a place to look at art. It’s a place where visitors are encouraged to truly see art. It is a place of learning, where students sketch in the galleries and artists talk about their work. It’s a destination for families, where kids express their own creativity through hands-on activities. And it’s a resource for academic research and observation. Museum experiences build skills that extend into every aspect of life. Viewing art promotes dialogue and understanding between individuals, among families, and throughout our community. Art makes life richer. And better. For everyone.

**ABOUT ROGER OGDEN**:

Roger Ogden is a real estate developer, civic leader, and philanthropist. He has been a leader in the development and acquisition of more than $2 billion in commercial real estate including shopping centers, hotels and office properties and public pro bono projects. As co-founder of Stirling Properties, for 20 years he led the company as principal and CEO in the development and acquisition of a $200 million portfolio of shopping centers. In 1996, Roger developed the Omni Riverfront Hotel, pioneering development on Convention Center Boulevard. He then acquired and redeveloped the Shops at Canal Place, a five-star mall in downtown New Orleans featuring Saks Fifth Avenue, Tiffany, Brooks Brothers, Anthropologie, and others together with an attached parking garage. In 2003, Roger completed the Loews New Orleans Hotel on Poydras Street and the restoration of the adjacent Piazza d’Italia. This project involved the creative adaptive re-use of the former Lykes Steamship Office Building. Mr. Ogden is a principal of the partnership that acquired and redeveloped the Omni Royal Orleans Hotel in the French Quarter following Hurricane Katrina.

Roger Ogden has been extraordinarily active in many civic endeavors, including past Chairman of the LSU Board of Supervisors, past Chairman of the Audubon Park Commission, and chairman of the boards of many other public and non-profit organizations. In connection with his civic work, he has donated his time and talents as the coordinating developer of the New Orleans Aquarium of the Americas and Woldenberg Park, restoration of the historic Louisiana Supreme Court building. He chaired the design and construction committee for the development of the new $60 million business school complex at LSU and currently serves on the board of the LSU Foundation and executive committee of the Flagship Coalition. He also donated $12 million to endow the LSU Roger Hadfield Ogden Honors College (named after his father and son).

Mr. Ogden’s experience and passion for economic development dovetails with his service as the inaugural chairman of the SoLA Super Region Committee (a collaboration between GNO Inc. and the Baton Rouge Area Chamber). Most recently on the New Orleans Aviation Board, he has helped lead the development of a new $1 billion world-class terminal to be opened in the fall of 2019. Additionally, Roger is a member of the Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region and is recognized as one of New Orleans leading entrepreneurs in “How They did It…Profiles of New Orleans Entrepreneurs” published in 2009. He is an emeritus member of the GNO Inc. Board of Directors and currently serves on the statewide Committee of 100.

Committed to the arts, Mr. Ogden donated over 1,000 pieces of art from his personal collection to found the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, which opened in August 2003. The project has led to a renaissance of this historically important area of the city and is nationally recognized as the largest and most comprehensive collection of Southern art. Mr. Ogden has served on the Board of Directors of the Louisiana State Museum, Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans Ballet, LSU Museum of Art, and New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts (NOCCA). He currently chairs the art committee of the Louisiana Governor’s Mansion Foundation and has served on the board of directors of the Foundation for Excellence in Louisiana Public Broadcasting.

Mr. Ogden has received numerous professional, business and civic awards which include United Way’s Tocqueville Award in 2019, Lifetime Achievement Award by Association for Corporate Growth in 2019, Times-Picayune Loving Cup, Louisiana Legend by Louisiana Public Broadcasting in 2015, New Orleanian of the Year by Gambit Magazine, Metropolitan Area Committee’s Special Achievement Award for Metro New Orleans, Mayor’s Arts Award - Arts Council of New Orleans, LSU Illustrious Alumnus in 2011, “Community Hero” Torchbearer in the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay, elected to LSU Alumni Hall of Distinction, Humanitarian Award from National Jewish Medical and Research Center, Family Service of Greater New Orleans Ten Outstanding Persons Award, John G. Tower Award by Kappa Sigma Fraternity, LSU Business School Hall of Distinction, Anti-Defamation League’s A.I. Botnick Torch of Liberty Award for Humanitarian Service, Business Higher Education Council – First Citizen of the Learning Society Award, Committee on Urban Agenda Urban Hero Award by the National Urban League, named one of the 30 Driving Forces in New Orleans by City Business, New Orleans Business Hall of Fame by Junior Achievement, Greater New Orleans Philanthropist of the Year in 2009, and Urban League Empowerment Award.

Mr. Ogden is an honors graduate of Louisiana State University where he graduated second in the College of Business and served as Student Body President. He holds a Juris Doctorate Degree and is an Order of the Coif graduate of Tulane Law School where he was elected to The Law Review. He has been a resident of New Orleans for 48 years.

LINK TO IMAGES HERE:

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