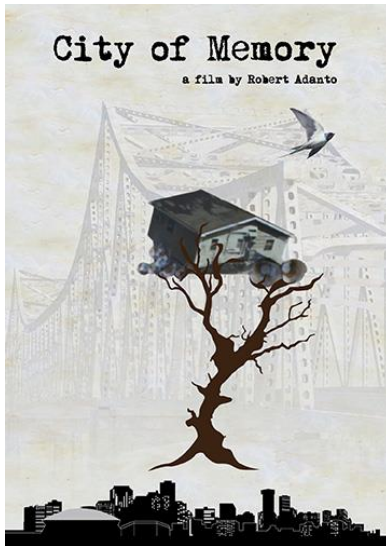


# PRESS RELEASE

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## Film Screening and Q&A with director Robert Adanto

### *City of Memory*

**Wednesday, August 31, 2016  
6:00 PM**

Free and open to the public

**Suggested \$10 donation to the Community Foundation of Acadiana - Acadiana Disaster Response Fund - to support the disaster relief efforts for those affected by recent floods**

**Lafayette, LA, Aug 16, 2016-** The Hilliard University Art Museum is pleased to announce a screening of the documentary *City of Memory*, directed by the acclaimed filmmaker Robert Adanto. The film will be presented Wednesday, August 31, at 6:00 PM and followed by a Q&A with the director.

*City of Memory* explores the ways in which the cataclysmic events in the wake of Hurricane Katrina became imprinted on the memory of visual artists who lived through them. Robert Adanto's film documents the unique ability of New Orleans' artists to react when faced with catastrophe. From what looked like the death of a great American city emerged a generation of artists whose energy might prove a source of renewal for the rest of the world.

The film features compelling artwork and interviews with Samuel Portera, Deborah Luster, Tameka Norris, Dawn DeDeaux, Miranda Lake, Gina Phillips, Hannah Chalew, John Woodin, Rondell Crier, Thomas Neff, Jennifer Shaw, Loren Schwerd, Lisette De Boisblanc, Kevin Kline, Zack Smith, E. Paul Julien, Elizabeth Kleinveld, Jan Gilbert, Sydney Byrd, Keith Calhoun, Jana Napoli, Rontherin Ratliff, and David Spielman.

Six of the artists featured in the film will be included in the group exhibition *Face to Face: A Survey of Contemporary Portraiture by Louisiana Artists*, which opens at the Hilliard University Art Museum that following week, on Friday September 9. Independent curator Jane Hart, who organized the exhibit, is an old friend of filmmaker Robert Adanto and cites his work on *City of Memory* as a direct influence on her selections for *Face to Face*. "When Robert first showed me this film, I was deeply moved by the compassion he demonstrated, as well as the artists' display of raw human emotion," says Hart. "He is a brilliant storyteller, and the movement of artists he has chronicled in post-Katrina New Orleans is part of an important legacy of activism that is developing in present-day American art history."

The screening on August 31 in Lafayette is a fundraiser for those affected by recent floods in the region. It is suggested that those attending the film donate \$10 to the Community Foundation of Acadiana (Memo: Acadiana Disaster Response Fund), to support ongoing disaster relief efforts. "In recent days I've offered prayers for those suffering in Louisiana due to the recent flooding in the state. In making of *City of Memory* I've learned many things. When flood waters rise to record heights, so too does the damage, loss, and suffering. I mourn for those who lost their lives," says filmmaker Robert Adanto. "I know that many homes full of memories have been destroyed. Photos, family heirlooms, and other keepsakes are lost. The needs will remain very great after the flood waters drop. But knowing the people of Louisiana, your generosity will be even greater. That is why I am

happy to do anything I can to assist in recovery efforts. For those affected by the flood, my heart goes out to you."

### **Screening History**

*City of Memory* made its theatrical debut as an Official Selection of the 29th Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival and was also an Official Selection at the 2015 Louisville International Festival of Film. In August of 2015, The New Orleans Film Society invited Robert to present *City of Memory* at the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, in association with *The Rising*, an exhibition commemorating the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. In addition, the film was screened as part of MoCA Moving Images in North Miami, and it was recently screened in association with *Katrina Then & Now: Artists as Witness*, an exhibition at the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Art Gallery at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. A rough-cut of the film was screened at The Contemporary Arts Center in New Orleans in August of 2013, in conjunction with the exhibit, *Tank Drama: Deliberations from the Wet Grave*, curated by Jan Gilbert.

### **Video Preview for *City of Memory***

Official Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/71274521>

Three Clips: <https://vimeo.com/71164853>

### **Press for *City of Memory***

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sheryl-estrada/city-of-memory-robert-adanto\\_b\\_3818328.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sheryl-estrada/city-of-memory-robert-adanto_b_3818328.html)

<http://pelicanbomb.com/events/2015/8/18/screening-of-city-of-memory>

<http://neworleansfilmsociety.org/film/detail/2426/city-of-memory>

### **Filmmaker Biography**

Robert Adanto made his directorial debut with *The Rising Tide* in 2008, a feature-length documentary exploring China's meteoric march toward the future through the work of some of the Middle Kingdom's most talented photographers and video artists. Shot in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, and Shenzhen in the summer of 2006, *The Rising Tide* captures the confusion and ambiguity that characterize the new China. *Pearls on the Ocean Floor* (2010), his second feature, examines the lives and works of Iranian female artists living and working in and outside the Islamic Republic. Featuring interviews with art luminaries Shirin Neshat and Shadi Ghadirian, *Pearls on the Ocean Floor* received the Bronze Palm Award for Best Documentary at the 2011 edition of the Mexican International Film Festival and the Spirit of Independents Award at the 2012 Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival.

His latest art documentary, *The F Word*, examines radical 4th wave feminist performance and will be screening at the Downtown Film Festival Los Angeles in September. His films have been official selections at over 50 international film festivals and have enjoyed screenings at The Smithsonian Institution's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden; The Museum of Fine Arts Boston; Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA); The National Center for Contemporary Art in Moscow; Schirn Kunsthalle in Frankfurt; The Museum of Contemporary Photography in Chicago; and The Tel Aviv Museum of Art; amongst others.

He is currently working on *Born Just Now*, a film examining the life and work of the Belgrade-based performance artist, Marta Jovanovic, and he is honored to once again share *City of Memory* with the people of Louisiana. In August of 2015, The New Orleans Film Society invited Robert to present *City of Memory* at the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, in association with *The Rising*, an exhibition commemorating the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, and an early version of the film was screened at The Contemporary Arts Center in New Orleans in August of 2013, in conjunction with *Tank Drama: Deliberations from the Wet Grave*, an exhibition curated by Jan Gilbert.

Upon request, press and media kits for *City of Memory* and *Face to Face: A Survey of Contemporary Portraiture by Louisiana Artists*, are available and include high resolution images, selected literature and video clips. *Artists*, are available and include high resolution images, selected literature and video clips.



Tameka Norris  
"Post-Katrina Self-Portrait #1", 2008  
c-print  
Photo courtesy the artist and Emerson  
Dorsch Gallery, Miami



Photo by John Woodin



Dawn DeDeaux  
"Steps Home," 2010  
Photo courtesy the artist and Arthur Roger  
Gallery, New Orleans

### **Museum Hours, Admission & General Information**

The Hilliard University Art Museum is located at 710 East Saint Mary Boulevard, on the campus of University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Museum Hours are: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; Wednesday, 9:00 am to 8:00 pm; Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm; closed Sunday and Monday. General Admission: \$5 Adults, \$4 Seniors (62+), \$3 Students (5-17). FREE for Members, UL Students/Staff/Faculty with identification, and visitors under 5. Guided tours of the galleries are available Friday & Saturday at 2 PM, complimentary with admission. For general information, please visit [hilliardmuseum.org](http://hilliardmuseum.org) or call (337) 482-2278.

### **About the Hilliard**

The Hilliard University Art Museum operates on the campus of University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and was originally founded in 1964 as the Art Center for Southwest Louisiana. Featuring a state-of-the-art modern facility that was erected in 2004, the museum houses more than 2,200 objects in its permanent collection, and is the largest art exhibition space between New Orleans and Houston. The Hilliard serves a wide range of educational and cultural needs by fostering cross-disciplinary intellectual discourse on campus and throughout the region. At the core of the Hilliard's mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit the art of our time while celebrating the great diversity of Louisiana's heritage.

### **Concurrent and Upcoming Exhibitions at the the Hilliard University Art Museum**

*Face to Face: A Survey of Portraiture by Louisiana Artists*, featuring Willie Birch, Douglas Bourgeois, George Dureau, Elizabeth Kleinveld & Epaul Julien, Aubrey Edwards, Deborah Luster, Rashaad Newsome, Tameka Norris, Gina Phillips, Jennifer Shaw, Jonathan Traviesa, and Heather Weathers.

Guest curated by Jane Hart  
Sep 9, 2016 – Jan 7, 2017

*Oliver Wasow: Hudson Valley Studio Portraits*

Guest curated by Jane Hart  
Sep 2, 2016 – Jan 14, 2017

*Francie Bishop Good: Comus.*

Guest curated by Jane Hart  
Sep 9 – Dec 10, 2016

*Spotlight on the Collection: Portraiture*, featuring Delaney Burgess, MC "5 Cent" Jones, Jules Lion, Sister Gertrude Morgan, Sultan Rogers, Adolf Rinck, James "Son" Thomas, and a ceremonial mask from Mali

curated by Laura Blereau  
Aug 5 – Dec 3, 2016

*Then and Now: Cajun Dance Halls and Zydeco Clubs*

Organized by Festivals Acadiens et Créoles  
Sep 9 – Oct 16, 2016

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