

PRESS RELEASE

Hilliard University Art Museum

University of Louisiana at Lafayette
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Richard Sexton. *Facade of La Maravilla (the marvel), on the Plaza del Cristo, Habana Vieja; Havana, Cuba* (2009)

Friday, July 22, 6:00 PM Panel Discussion and Book Signing with Richard Sexton

Featuring panelists: **Dr. Lena Suk**, University of Louisiana at Lafayette Department of History and Latin American Studies; **Dr. Jay D. Edwards**, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at Louisiana State University; and **Richard Sexton**, photographer. Moderated by *Creole World* exhibition curator **John H. Lawrence**, Director of Museum Programs at The Historic New Orleans Collection.

Free and open to the public

**5:00 PM Welcome reception with light refreshments
provided by Café Habana City**

6:00 PM Panel discussion and book signing

RSVP: artmuseum@louisiana.edu or (337) 482-0817

Lafayette, LA, June 28, 2016- The Hilliard University Art Museum is pleased to announce a slide lecture by Richard Sexton, the artist behind the exhibition and book *Creole World*. This free event includes a public discussion of his recent photographs taken in New Orleans and the Latin Caribbean sphere, followed by a book signing. This event includes light refreshments at 5:00 PM and an opportunity to view the exhibition, which opened June 10 at the Hilliard University Art Museum.

Creole World features more than 50 images of the Latin Caribbean and New Orleans. Over the course of 38 years (1974 to 2013), Sexton travelled across Latin America—from Haiti, Colombia, Argentina, Cuba and Ecuador back home to New Orleans—capturing the architectural and urban similarities among these culturally rich locales. Presented for the first time in three languages (English, Spanish and French), the exhibition in Lafayette originated at The Historic New Orleans Collection in 2014.

New Orleans is known for its distinctive Creole heritage, which is evident in its food, architecture and people—however it is also part of an entire family of Latin Caribbean cities that forged new identities from their colonial histories. The panel discussion on July 22 will explore a myriad of definitions for the word “creole”, as well as the historical, linguistic and social implications of its use over time and around the world.

Creole World is accompanied by a publication that includes essays by Creole-architecture scholar Jay D. Edwards and photography historian John H. Lawrence. The photographs in this exhibition are on loan from The Historic New Orleans Collection, and will remain on view through August 20.

Panelist Biographies

Dr. Jay D. Edwards, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at LSU, retired in 2013 after 45 years of teaching in the Department of Geography & Anthropology at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. There, he maintains an office, directs graduate students, and is active in grant activity and in publications. His edited work, *Plantations by the River*, won the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities “Best Book in the Humanities” award in 2003. Edwards was a recipient of the “Order of the Palmetto” (the James Williams Rivers Prize for excellence in Louisiana Publishing) from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. His co-authored volume, *A Creole Lexicon: Architecture, Landscape, People*

(2004) has been praised in reviews as the “best book of its type.” He was a co-author of the book *Old South Baton Rouge: The Roots of Hope* (2009). While teaching, Edwards directed 21 Historic American Buildings Surveys of Louisiana vernacular and plantation houses. He is the co-author (with Pat Duncan and Jonathan Fricker) of the Federal multiple property nomination for Louisiana’s Creole Architecture (1989-1991). Edwards’s interests include the origins and evolution of French architecture in the Mississippi Valley, as interpreted in his 2011 *Atlantic Studies* article, “Upper Louisiana’s French Vernacular Architecture in the Greater Atlantic World.” He has published more than 30 single-authored articles and chapters on the subjects of Louisiana and West Indian architecture and architectural creolization, including the “Introduction” to the recent *Creole World* (2015) by Richard Sexton. His current projects include two forthcoming books on preeminent Louisiana house types—the Creole Cottage of New Orleans, and the shotgun house. He is also working on a book of Louisiana surveys by the architect-surveyor, Barthelemy Lafon, dated to 1803-05.

John H. Lawrence is director of museum programs at The Historic New Orleans Collection, where his is responsible for planning and implementing museum exhibitions, lectures, seminars, and related activities. He is also the head of curatorial collections, having oversight of pictorial and object holdings numbering in excess of 300,000 items. In his 40-year career at The Historic New Orleans Collection, the New Orleans native has held the positions of curator of photographs and senior curator. Lawrence has written and lectured widely about aspects of contemporary and historic photography, and the administration and preservation of pictorial collections. He has served as principal or guest curator for dozens of exhibitions on a variety of photographic, artistic, and general historical topics. Lawrence holds degrees in Literature and Art History from Vassar College (1975), and a certificate in museum management from the Getty Leadership Institute, formerly the Museum Management Institute (1993).

Richard Sexton is a fine-art and media photographer whose work has been published and exhibited worldwide. Born in Atlanta and raised in Colquitt, Georgia, his work has been published in *Archetype*, *Harper’s*, *Photographer’s Forum* and *View Camera* magazines, as well as many others. “Creole World” The Historic New Orleans Collection, 2014) is his 13th book, joining titles such as the best-selling “New Orleans: Elegance and Decadence” (Chronicle Books, 1993) and “Vestiges of Grandeur: The Plantations of Louisiana’s River Road” (Chronicle Books, 1999). Sexton received the 2014 Michael P. Smith Memorial Award for Documentary Photography from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.

Dr. Lena Suk is assistant professor of Latin American history at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. A historian of gender, race, and popular culture, her research in *Girls’ Night Out: Gender and Transnational Film Culture in Brazil* examines women’s participation in film culture, from movie-goers to aspiring actresses, film critics, and moralizers. Suk’s research has been supported by the U.S. Fulbright Program and the Mellon Foundation. She holds a Ph.D. in History and an M.A. in film studies from Emory University. At the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Suk teaches courses on Latin American history and world civilizations, with an emphasis on gender, race, ethnicity, and popular culture.

Upon request, press and media kits for *Richard Sexton - Creole World: Photographs of New Orleans and the Latin Caribbean Sphere* are available, and include high-resolution images, selected literature and audio clips.

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 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 Exhibitions at the the Hilliard University Art Museum

May 27 – August 27, 2016. *Kate Clark –Mysterious Presence*, organized by the Newcomb Art and curated by museum director Mónica Ramirez-Montagut

January 15 – August 20, 2016. *Depictions of Louisiana, Selections from the Hilliard University Art Museum Permanent Collection*

March 19 – Aug 13, 2016. *Condition Report: Preserving Our Community's Art Collection*

Upcoming Exhibitions at the the Hilliard University Art Museum

Fall 2016, opening September 9:

Face to Face, A Survey of Portraiture by Louisiana Artists, guest curated by Jane Hart

Oliver Wasow: Hudson Valley Studio Portraits, guest curated by Jane Hart

Francie Bishop Good: Comus, guest curated by Jane Hart

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