

# Artis—Naples

Home of The Baker Museum  
& Naples Philharmonic

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## ***For Immediate Release***

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## **ARTIS—NAPLES, THE BAKER MUSEUM ANNOUNCES ACQUISITION OF HANS HOFMANN'S *PALING MOON***

**Naples, FL (May 20, 2026)** – Artis—Naples, The Baker Museum announced today the acquisition of *Paling Moon* (1965), a major late painting by Hans Hofmann, through a partial gift from Joan W. Stonecipher. Beginning in early June 2026, the oil-on-canvas work will be on public view in The Baker Museum for six months each year, with the museum assuming full ownership after a maximum of 10 years.

The acquisition brings a significant example of postwar abstraction into public view after decades in private hands. Painted in 1965, *Paling Moon* reflects Hofmann's mature engagement with color and spatial tension. The acquisition deepens the museum's holdings in modern American abstraction and builds on its representation of the artist, joining two untitled works by Hofmann already in the museum's possession. Together, these works strengthen a collection that already features artists shaped by Hofmann's ideas and expanding opportunities for long-term scholarship and public dialogue.

Hofmann played a seminal role in the development of abstraction in both Europe and the United States. Born in Germany in 1880, he lived, worked and taught in Europe between 1900 and 1930 (primarily in Munich and Paris), where he was a close colleague and friend of modern artists including Matisse, Picasso and Delaunay. He came to the United States in 1930 to teach at the University of California at Berkeley and would go on to teach at the Art Students League in New York before opening his eponymous art school in Provincetown, Massachusetts. Regarded as one of the founders of Abstract Expressionism, his students included Ray Eames, Lee Krasner, Joan Mitchell, Louise Nevelson, Larry Rivers and many others.

"The acquisition of *Paling Moon* advances our commitment to building a permanent collection of enduring significance," said Artis—Naples CEO and President Kathleen van Bergen. "We are grateful to Joan Stonecipher for her generosity and foresight in making this work available for the public on an ongoing basis. Bringing a painting of this caliber into the collection further strengthens our ability to serve our audiences through exhibition, scholarship and meaningful cultural engagement."

"This work holds a significant place within the history of abstraction," said Courtney McNeil, museum director and chief curator. "Its commanding scale, exuberant color palette, and combination of painterly brushstrokes with hard-edge geometric forms exemplify Hans Hofmann's mature style, and it will meaningfully enrich the quality of our permanent collection. We are honored to be able to share this exemplary work of American art with our audiences in Southwest Florida."

## **ARTIS—NAPLES**

Artis—Naples, home of The Baker Museum and Naples Philharmonic, creates and presents world-class visual and performing arts. Through our multidisciplinary offerings, we inspire, educate and entertain to engage and enrich the growing and diversifying community.

## **KIMBERLY K. QUERREY and LOUIS A. SIMPSON CULTURAL CAMPUS**

Led by CEO and President Kathleen van Bergen and Artistic and Music Director Alexander Shelley, Artis—Naples offers more than 800 visual and performing arts experiences annually across its 8.5-acre Kimberly K. Querrey and Louis A. Simpson Cultural Campus and throughout the community. Artis—Naples welcomes hundreds of 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.

## **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 Southwest Florida. The Naples Philharmonic has enjoyed a history of working with world-class music directors. With the 2026-27 season, Alexander Shelley enters his third season as artistic and music director, following two successful years and an extended commitment through the end of the decade. Podium leadership also includes Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly, celebrating 17 years in this role in the coming 2026-27 season and bringing pops performances that celebrate music across genres. Renowned violinist James Ehnes continues as artistic partner through the 2026-27 season, working with Naples Philharmonic musicians in a variety of settings with a focus on inspiring and embodying a high level of artistry.

## **THE BAKER MUSEUM**

The Baker Museum is the foremost fine art museum in Southwest Florida, presenting an ambitious slate of exhibitions annually to complement installations of works from its permanent collection. Comprising more than 3,000 objects, the museum's broad holdings of 20th- and 21st-century art reflect particular strengths in modern art of the United States and Mexico. The Baker Museum's collection demonstrates the generosity and commitment of area collectors, including significant gifts from the collection of the late Olga Hirshhorn.

In 2025, The Baker Museum was accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, the highest national recognition for museums in the United States, affirming the museum's commitment to excellence, accountability and public service.

With more than two decades of collecting and exhibiting, the museum is committed to the stewardship and scholarship of its collections and to fostering inspiring and transformative experiences with the visual arts. At the same time, The Baker Museum partners with the world's leading arts institutions to make extraordinary exhibitions accessible to the Southwest Florida community—including the National Portrait Gallery, London and the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation. In 2020, Artis—Naples celebrated the renovation and expansion of The Baker Museum and adjoining Norris Garden, designed by Weiss/Manfredi Architecture/Landscape/Urbanism, which 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 in Collier and Lee counties. Each season, thousands of Collier County Public School students interact with Artis—Naples education programming, both on our cultural campus and in their classrooms. Beyond our commitment to youth education, the Lifelong Learning program provides informative lectures and study opportunities for adults seeking to engage more deeply with the arts.

The Friends of Artis—Naples, comprised of more than 3,500 donor households, offers activities, travel experiences and events designed to foster 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 2023, the festival's 15th anniversary year, NIFF was named one of *MovieMaker Magazine's* "20 Great Film Festivals in Vacation Destinations."

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