

Artis—Naples

*Home of The Baker Museum
and the Naples Philharmonic*

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ARTIS—NAPLES, THE BAKER MUSEUM ANNOUNCES AWARDS FOR 2021-22 EXHIBITION PAM LONGOBARDI: OCEAN GLEANING

**Pam Longobardi: Ocean Gleaning received a Silver Award in the
over \$25,000 budget category
from the Southeastern Museums Conference
and a Museum Excellence Award from the Florida Association of Museums**

Naples, FL (November 17, 2022) — Artis—Naples, home of The Baker Museum and the Naples Philharmonic, announced today two awards for the 2021-22 exhibition *Pam Longobardi: Ocean Gleaning*. The exhibition, comprised of works transformed from found ocean plastics, shed an unflinching light on the effects of global consumption on the natural world. *Pam Longobardi: Ocean Gleaning* received a Silver Award in the Over \$25,000 Budget Category from the Southeastern Museums and a Museum Excellence Award from the Florida Association of Museums.

“Our theme throughout the 2021-22 season was *Esprit de Corps*, and *Ocean Gleaning* showed us how we can all work together to protect our natural resources,” said CEO and President Kathleen van Bergen. “This remarkable exhibition served as a reminder of how everything we do affects our environment, and we are honored and gratified to receive these awards recognizing its impact.”

“These prestigious awards speak volumes about the significance of Pam’s work,” said Courtney McNeil, museum director and chief curator. “We are honored to have presented this landmark exhibition and honored to have it recognized by the Southeastern Museums Conference and the Florida Association of Museums. This recognition from our museum colleagues is deeply meaningful, and we are grateful for the opportunity to have worked with Pam on this exhibition.”

The SEMC Exhibition Competition recognizes exhibitions for overall excellence or for stretching the limits of content and design through innovation. Winning entries were well-designed exhibitions of merit with educational value and demonstrated, respectful treatment of objects. Recipients of the awards were judged by an appointed jury of museum professionals across the region who specialize in curatorial studies and exhibition design. One of the judges wrote of *Ocean Gleaning*: “This is an example of the best kind of work a museum can do: Connecting with the community to discuss big issues, while showing exemplary objects.” Another judge wrote: “Visually a really, really interesting and exciting exhibition... Great work.”

The FAM Awards Program exists to recognize outstanding contributions to the museum profession in the state of Florida. The Museum Excellence Award recognizes exceptional projects that have made an impressive and measurable impact on an individual museum or the field as a whole. *Ocean Gleaning* was one of just two recipients of the 2022 FAM Museum Excellence Award.

Longobardi utilizes found ocean plastics as her primary source material, arranging hundreds of plastic pieces into meticulous wall-mounted artworks or turning them into monumental floor-

based sculptures. Some objects in the exhibition were produced in collaboration with refugee communities in the Mediterranean, revealing material traces of migration and displacement in the modern world. For this exhibition, Longobardi also created artwork using materials gathered from local beaches during a beach cleanup organized by the museum.

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.

Pam Longobardi: Ocean Gleaning was organized by Artis—Naples, The Baker Museum and curated by Courtney McNeil, museum director and chief curator. The exhibition was generously sponsored by Anne and Mark Rubin.

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, 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.

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. The Naples Philharmonic has enjoyed a history of working with world-class music directors, with Andrey Boreyko being the fourth and most recent. Following the completion of Boreyko's eighth and final season in 2022, a search is underway for the Sharon and Timothy Ubben Music Director position. As the search continues, Artis—Naples has appointed violinist James Ehnes as an artistic partner for the 2022-23 season, working with Naples Philharmonic musicians in a variety of settings with a focus on inspiring and embodying a high level of artistry. Podium leadership includes Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly, celebrating 13 years in this role in the 2022-23 season and bringing pops performances that celebrate music in its many forms. In 2017, 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. Starting with the 2022-23 season, Alvin Ho has joined the artistic team as assistant conductor of the Naples Philharmonic.

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, including significant gifts from the 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 3,400 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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