

Artis—Naples

Home of The Baker Museum
and the Naples Philharmonic

Contact: Therese McDevitt, Communications Director

tmcdevitt@artisnaples.org | 239-254-2794

Website: artisnaples.org

Facebook: facebook.com/artisnaples

Twitter: [@artisnaples](https://twitter.com/artisnaples) | Instagram: [artisnaples](https://www.instagram.com/artisnaples)

ARTIS—NAPLES, THE BAKER MUSEUM ANNOUNCES OPENING OF SPRING EXHIBITIONS

***Another World: The Transcendental Painting Group* and Companion Exhibition *Invisible Thread* March 26 – July 24, 2022**

Naples, FL (March 24, 2022) – Artis—Naples, The Baker Museum announces the opening of *Another World: The Transcendental Painting Group* on March 26, and a companion exhibition, *Invisible Thread*. Both exhibitions will be on view through July 24.

The landmark museum exhibition *Another World: The Transcendental Painting Group* is the first exhibition of this important group of American modernists to be shown beyond New Mexico's borders, and the first to be accompanied by a major scholarly publication. *Another World* is devoted to an often-overlooked group of 20th-century abstract artists who pursued enlightenment and spiritual illumination.

Organized by independent curator Michael Duncan and the Crocker Art Museum, this survey of 89 works made by 11 visionary abstractionists associated with the Transcendental Painting Group is drawn from a variety of private and public collections, including the Crocker's. It aims to provide a broad perspective on the group's work and reposition it within the history of modern painting and 20th-century American art. The presentation of this exhibition at Artis—Naples, The Baker Museum is curated by Rangsook Yoon, Ph.D., curator of modern art. This exhibition is made possible with support from the Henry Luce Foundation.

"We are honored that Artis—Naples is one of five distinguished hosts for this groundbreaking exhibition," said CEO and President Kathleen van Bergen. "The presentation of *Another World* at The Baker Museum demonstrates our commitment to bringing the very best in traveling exhibitions to Naples, and to expanding our relationships with other museums and scholarly institutions."

Museum Director and Chief Curator Courtney McNeil added "*Another World* shines a light on a group of extraordinarily important artists whose work has often been overlooked. The timing is certainly right for presenting key works of contemplative art that might offer solace – and also lead to spiritual reflection – during this challenging time in the world."

"Despite the quality of their works, this group of Southwest artists have been neglected in most surveys of American art, their paintings rarely exhibited outside of New Mexico," said guest curator Duncan, who originally planned the exhibition nearly a decade ago. A corresponding editor for *Art in America* whose writings have focused on maverick artists of the 20th century and West Coast modernism, he asserts that "as we settle into the 21st century, the 'spiritual' seems no longer a complete taboo, and art history is undergoing a vast sea change."

Toward the end of the Great Depression, a loose configuration of artists organized to promote an alternative to the social realist and regional art that then dominated the art world. Initiated in New Mexico in 1938, the Transcendental Painting Group set out to explore spiritually heightened abstraction, employing free-wheeling symbols and imagery drawn from the collective unconscious. Under the guidance of Raymond Jonson and Emil Bisttram, artists Agnes Pelton, Lawren Harris, Florence Miller Pierce, Horace Pierce, Robert Gribbroek, William Lumpkins, Dane Rudhyar, Stuart Walker and Ed Garman sought, per their manifesto, “to carry painting beyond the appearance of the physical world, through new concepts of space, color, light and design to imaginative realms that are idealistic and spiritual.”

Inspired by the ideas of artist and theorist Wassily Kandinsky, as well as by American painters Arthur Dove, Marsden Hartley and Georgia O’Keeffe, these artists evoked sensuous, synesthetic experiences of nature and ideas, creating works that embodied a higher spiritual reality. Though the group dispersed during World War II, their works were an important chapter in the history of 20th-century American art, today providing a compelling heritage for contemporary artists seeking to create spiritually evocative abstractions.

Invisible Thread—a companion exhibition to *Another World: The Transcendental Painting Group*—explores the works of 12 contemporary artists who approach spirituality, transcendence and the subconscious through abstraction and metaphorical representation. This exhibition presents a broad swath of mediums and techniques, including performance, film, sculpture and painting, while conceptually threading both abstract and representational elements together in the examination of contemporary spirituality and the continued pursuit of transcending physical mortality. *Invisible Thread* is organized by Artis—Naples, The Baker Museum, and is curated by Aaron Levi Garvey, Janet L. Nolan Director of Curatorial Affairs, Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art at Auburn University. The exhibition revolves around the premise that for as long as there have been free-thinking humans, there has been a certain longing to understand the intricacies of the universe, the hereafter and the mysticism held within these explorations. Throughout the centuries, artistic expression has been ever present in these pursuits to create physical representations of these experiences. Those fortunate enough to get a glimpse of the “other side” have worked to create visual, auditory or literary representations of their journeys and experiences.

Artists included in the exhibition include Lala Abaddon, Natalie Ball, David Bordett, Awol Erizku, Jeffrey Gibson, Dom Sylvester Houédard, Rachel Libeskind, Tony Rodrigues, Shikeith, Panos Tsagaris, Neha Vedpathak and Monsieur Zohore.

Another World: The Transcendental Painting Group was made possible with support from the Henry Luce Foundation.

The Henry Luce Foundation seeks to enrich public discourse by promoting innovative scholarship, cultivating new leaders and fostering international understanding. Established in 1936 by Henry R. Luce, the co-founder and editor-in-chief of Time, Inc., the Luce Foundation advances its mission through grantmaking and leadership programs in the fields of Asia, higher education, religion and theology, art and public policy.

A leader in arts funding in the United States, the Luce Foundation’s American Art Program was established in 1982 to support museums, universities and arts organizations in their efforts to advance the understanding and experience of American and Native American visual arts through research, exhibitions, publications and collection projects.

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 and Sharon and Timothy Ubben Music Director Andrey Boreyko, 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.

In the 2014-15 season, Andrey Boreyko assumed the title of music director and serves in this capacity for Artis—Naples. Boreyko is internationally recognized as one of the most exciting and dynamic conductors working today. This appointment, which concludes in 2022, is his first American post.

The Wall Street Journal says van Bergen and Boreyko have ushered in “an impressive new phase” for classical music in Southwest Florida.

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.

Jack Everly is Principal Pops Conductor and in the 2021-22 season celebrates 12 years in this role, bringing pops performances that celebrate music in its many forms. In 2017, Romanian 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.

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 and significant gifts from the personal 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 4,000 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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