



## New Orleans Museum of Art

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### ***Rodrigue's Louisiana* a Rousing Success** **More than 52,000 visitors saw retrospective of famed Cajun artist**

**NEW ORLEANS, La. (Monday, June 9, 2008)**—A total of 6,127 visitors streamed through the front doors of the New Orleans Museum of Art on Saturday and Sunday, the closing weekend of the blockbuster exhibition, *Rodrigue's Louisiana: Cajuns, Blue Dogs, and Beyond Katrina*. Final attendance for the 14-week exhibition came to 52,813 visitors.

NOMA remained open "All Doggone Night" on Saturday, treating museum goers to 24 consecutive hours worth of special events, from Saturday evening's raucous concert by Big Sam's Funky Nation to Sunday's special gathering of Louisiana legends with artist George Rodrigue, Chef Paul Prudhomme, and musician Pete Fountain. In all, NOMA remained open 31 consecutive hours, from 10 a.m. Saturday to 5 p.m. Sunday.

"What a tremendous way to finish out a landmark exhibition," said NOMA director E. John Bullard. "It was the perfect tribute to a fine artist who has done so much for the New Orleans Museum of Art and the entire state of Louisiana. To have Rodrigue here with his friends Chef Paul and Pete Fountain, all at the same time, was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that many of our visitors will never forget."

The three legends entertained a packed Museum on Sunday afternoon. Prudhomme hosted a cooking demonstration and dished out tasso oysters with pasta and orzo salad, among other culinary delights. Meanwhile, Fountain met with members of the New Orleans Ragtime & Dixieland Jazz Band during their concert in the Museum's Great Hall, and Rodrigue signed hundreds of books. The trio of Rodrigue, Prudhomme, and Fountain sat together at a table for the final two hours Sunday, signing memorabilia and posing for photos up until the last minute.

All of the special closing weekend events were free with regular Museum admission.

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Rodrigue's Louisiana a Rousing Success  
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**MORE ON TOTAL ATTENDANCE**

Total attendance for *Rodrigue's Louisiana: Cajuns, Blue Dogs, and Beyond Katrina*, was 52,813 visitors, a record for an exhibition of work by a living artist.

“The record turnout for this exhibition is a testament to George’s popularity, especially amongst people in his home state,” said Bullard.

Of the total attendance, 82.3-percent of visitors were residents of Louisiana. The popularity of *Rodrigue's Louisiana* drummed up considerable new support for the Museum, which gained 545 new members and experienced robust business in its gift shop during the exhibition’s 14-week run.

NOMA’s next major exhibition, *The Baroque World of Fernando Botero*, a touring retrospective of work by Latin America’s most famous living artist, opens June 28.

**About NOMA and the Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden**

The New Orleans Museum of Art, founded in 1910 by Isaac Delgado, houses more than 40,000 art objects encompassing 4,000 years of world art. Works from the permanent collection, along with continuously changing temporary exhibitions, are on view in the Museum’s 46 galleries Wednesdays from noon to 8 p.m. and Thursdays to Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission to the Museum is free to Louisiana residents (\$5 through June 8) through the generosity of the Helis Foundation.

Admission to the adjacent Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden, featuring work by 57 artists, including several of the 20th century’s great master sculptors, is always free during regular Museum hours.

The New Orleans Museum of Art and the Sculpture Garden are fully accessible to handicapped visitors and wheelchairs are available from the front desk.

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