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LASM to Revive Legacy of Louisiana Sculptor Frank Hayden in *Lift Every Voice*

BATON ROUGE, LA—One of Louisiana’s most significant sculptors of the twentieth century, Frank Hayden (1934-1988) created artwork that reflects the artist’s deeply spiritual and humanistic concerns. Organized by the Louisiana Art & Science Museum and on view from March 25, 2020, through September 6, 2020, *Frank Hayden: Lift Every Voice* is the first exhibition to explore Hayden’s life and work in such depth and integrates his stylistic concerns and influences with his biographical information.

“Frank Hayden’s art is intimately related to the Louisiana Art & Science Museum’s history as well as the history of Baton Rouge,” stated Elizabeth Weinstein, LASM’s Director of Interpretation & Chief Curator, who curated *Lift Every Voice*. “Hayden’s often stylized, figurative pieces, typically cast in bronze or carved from wood, are familiar to all who have explored downtown Baton Rouge and are also located in university quads, churches, synagogues, and along our riverfront levees. Despite Hayden’s presence in our community through his public art, he is not as well-known as he should be. We are proud to honor and in some ways revive his artistic legacy through this exhibition, the first of its kind, which explores milestones in his artistic development.”

On display will be around forty pieces, including some artworks rarely seen, from the collections of the Louisiana Art & Science Museum, the Louisiana State University Museum of Art, Southern University, Xavier University, and several private collections. Influenced by his Catholic faith and the principles of the Civil Rights Movement, Hayden’s work displays universal themes such as life, love, and family, along with themes of Christian values and civil rights. Hayden was one of the first to create public art tributes to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Hayden’s work is an integral part of our creative placemaking and cultural identity here in downtown Baton Rouge,” stated Serena Pandos, LASM’s President & Executive Director. “Tours of this exhibition, which connects art and science by examining the spiritual, human, and technical issues of Hayden’s work, will be coordinated throughout downtown Baton Rouge to provide visitors as well as community residents resources for learning more about Hayden’s journey and his publically-celebrated work.”

Born and raised in Memphis, Tennessee to an elementary school teacher, Hayden overcame challenges in his youth, ultimately going on to earn scholarships to Xavier University and Notre Dame University,

study sculpture in Europe, and finally become a master of sculpture himself. Hayden influenced many young artists while teaching art at Southern University for 27 years, a position he held until his untimely death in 1988.

Also included in *Lift Every Voice* is a section dedicated to the bronze casting process, which investigates the science behind the artistic practice. This section is an adaptation of a display created in 1979 by Frank Hayden and Adalié Brent, director of what was then called the Louisiana Arts and Science Center and is now called the Louisiana Art & Science Museum, which includes explanatory text in conjunction with a series of example models made by Hayden.

On Thursday, April 2, the Museum will present Art After Hours: Frank Hayden, which will include a curator-led tour, conversation about Hayden's work and legacy, and wine and hors d'oeuvres. *\$12 for non-members, free for members*

Frank Hayden: Lift Every Voice is funded thanks to a grant from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, the state affiliate of the National Endowment of the Humanities, with matching funds provided by Michael D. Robinson & Donald J. Boutté, and additional support provided by Ava & Cordell Haymon.

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Image: Frank Hayden, *Head of Oliver Pollock*, c. 1979. Bronze and stone. Louisiana Art & Science Museum Collection, 1979.046.002. Image courtesy of LASM.

About the Louisiana Art & Science Museum

Housed on the banks of the Mississippi River in a historic railway station on the banks of the Mississippi River in downtown Baton Rouge, the Louisiana Art & Science Museum believes that art and science shape each other, our lives, and the world, and presents experiences that encourage discovery, inspire creativity, and foster pursuit of knowledge. Founded in 1962 and accredited by the American Alliance of Museums since 1972, the Museum welcomes approximately 175,000 multigenerational visitors – including 105,000 school program participants – annually.

The Museum is home to the Irene W. Pennington Planetarium, the largest and most advanced planetarium in Louisiana and one of the largest in the southeastern United States; a permanent collection including over 4,000 objects; one of the only permanent ancient Egypt galleries in the southeastern United States; and displays changing art exhibitions of local and international acclaim. LASM is free to the public every First Sunday of the month and is free to active duty military, first responders, and their families through the Blue Star Museums program year-round. A 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, the Museum relies on the support of donations to operate; support the Museum at lasm.org/give.

Visit lasm.org for information about current exhibitions, Irene W. Pennington Planetarium showtimes, reservations, birthday parties, event rentals, upcoming programs, and more. Call 225.344.5272 for more information.

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