



Contact:

Lana Gersten | 312.846.1655 | lgersten@groupgordon.com

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**Internationally Acclaimed Art Visionary Michele Oka Doner to be Honored as
Featured Artist at the 2016 Naples Winter Wine Festival**

One-of-a-Kind Chandelier by the Artist will be up for Bidding at Live Auction

Naples, FL – December 1, 2015 – One of the most prolific and respected artists working today will be honored as the Featured Artist at the 2016 Naples Winter Wine Festival, to be held from January 29-31, 2016 at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort in Naples, Florida. Represented by the prestigious Marlborough Gallery in New York, Michele Oka Doner is best known for her public art commissions, including *Radiant Site* at New York's Herald Square subway, *Flight* at Washington's Reagan International Airport and *A Walk on the Beach* at The Miami International Airport, which features 9,000 bronze and mother-of-pearl sculptures lining a 1.25 mile concourse, one of the largest public artworks in the world.

"To have an artist of Michele Oka Doner's caliber attend the Naples Winter Wine Festival and donate a custom piece of art to our live auction is a dream come true," said Sandi Moran, co-chair of the 2016 Naples Winter Wine Festival. "Her art is inspired by the natural surroundings of her hometown of Miami Beach, not far from our Festival's grounds, and it's a great honor to welcome her back to Florida. Her talents and generous contribution will make a tremendous difference in the lives of so many children in this community."

Guests to the Naples Winter Wine Festival will have the unique opportunity to hang a piece of her artwork in their own home by bidding on a custom chandelier designed and created by the artist specifically for the Festival. Evocative of *The Firefly Chandelier* and cast in bronze, the chandelier will be inspired by a walk one dusk evening on a wooden ramp into the Everglades, near Naples.

"As an artist and a citizen of South Florida, born and raised, I am honored to participate in the Naples Winter Wine Festival, an organization that recognizes the challenges facing many children in Collier County," said Michele Oka Doner. "The chandelier I'll create for the winning bidder will be both work of art and symbolic gesture, as it is my intention to add more light to a community that ennobles itself with continuous generosity."

Her decades of work have garnered extraordinary praise, including numerous awards and grants. Oka Doner's artwork is featured in major museums and private collections throughout the United States and Europe, including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Musée des Arts Décoratifs at the Louvre and the Whitney Museum of American Art, among many others. Her other

public art projects can be found in U.S. courthouses, public libraries, hospitals, museums, universities, as well as in public parks and transportation centers. She is currently designing the costumes and sets for George Balanchine's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for the Miami City Ballet, which will debut concurrently with her solo exhibition at the Perez Museum of Art Miami in March 2016. She was awarded a 2011 Honorary Doctorate Degree in Fine Arts from The New School of Interior Design, in New York City.

In addition to bidding on Oka Doner's spectacular chandelier, guests to the Naples Winter Wine Festival will also have the opportunity to bid on one-of-a-kind travel experiences, limited edition cars, and unique wine lots during an electrifying live auction, all of which are dedicated to an important cause. Since its inception, the Festival has raised more than \$135 million dollars to support its founding organization, the Naples Children & Education Foundation, whose annual grants have provided more than 200,000 children with the services and resources they need to excel.

Ticket packages to this year's Naples Winter Wine Festival, limited to 580 guests, start at \$10,000 per couple. A \$25,000 package that includes reserved seating for a party of four under the tent at a vintner dinner is also available. For more information about the NWWF, please visit <http://www.napleswinefestival.com> or call 888-837-4919.

About the Naples Winter Wine Festival

The Naples Winter Wine Festival is one of the world's most prestigious charity wine auctions, bringing together renowned vintners and chefs with wine enthusiasts and philanthropists for a three-day Festival that raises millions of dollars for underprivileged and at-risk children. Every dollar raised under the tent funds the Festival's founding organization, the Naples Children & Education Foundation (NCEF), whose annual grants and strategic initiatives have provided more than 200,000 children with the services and resources they need to excel. For more information, please visit [napleswinefestival.com](http://www.napleswinefestival.com).

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