



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RAFAEL BARRIOS NAMED FEATURED ARTIST FOR 2014 NAPLES WINTER WINE FESTIVAL

NAPLES, FL., November 12, 2013 – The Naples Children & Education Foundation, the founding organization of the Naples Winter Wine Festival, has announced its Featured Artist for the 2014 Event. Internationally acclaimed sculptor Rafael Barrios will not only attend the event, but also will produce an original signature piece that will be included in the event's auction.

"This is a thrilling addition to our event," comments 2014 Co-Chair Linda Richards Malone. "Barrios is widely recognized as one of Venezuela's most important artists, and his mesmerizing work will provide a remarkable visual experience for all our guests, and a lifetime treasure for the successful bidder."

His work is found in important public and private collections, including the personal collections of King Juan Carlos of Spain and Princess Gloria von Thurn und Taxis of Germany. He lives and works in Miami, Paris and Caracas.

During his 40-year career, Barrios has shown his work in more than a hundred exhibitions, including solo and collective shows worldwide. In 2012, Barrios was selected to showcase a solo exhibition of his monumental work in the medians of New York City's Park Avenue. Featuring ten, 20-foot tall sculptures, this show was a primary example of the artist's use of the philosophy of phenomenology – things that can't be explained. Eye-popping optical illusions, these pieces made ¼"-wide stainless steel structures appear to be ever-changing stacked geometric shapes.

Born in Baton Rouge, LA and raised in Caracas, Venezuela, Barrios completed his bachelor's degree at Ottawa College, then studied at the Ontario College of Art and earned a graduate degree in Fine Arts and Monumental Techniques at New York University. Raphael has been honored with national and international awards including the Sculpture Prize at The McLean Foundation Scholarship and the Honor of the Honorable Deputy of Palos de la Frontera in Spain.

His work is mainly sculptural, although he also works creating sculptural furniture, assemblages, and monumental installations in public spaces. Barrios' body of work stems from the idea of triggering visual and participative experiences in the spectator. He achieves this by shifting perspectives and altering perception through volume, light and drawing on the tradition of the trompe l'oeil effect. He plays with slanted geometric shapes, while altering the laws of gravity, geometry and volumes in space, and questions the primal believing is seeing motto. Barrios' body of work is a serious statement about optics and perception. His formal concerns in optics and gravity have been the grounds for his long career.

Barrios' work also includes the creation of large-scale sculptures destined for public spaces and working intrinsically with architecture.

Rafael Barrios is represented by Art Nouveau Gallery in Miami, Florida. For inquiries, please contact the gallery at 305-573-4661

Festival Highlights

The 2014 Naples Winter Wine Festival is scheduled for January 24-26 at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort, Naples. A weekend-long affair, all proceeds raised from its auction go directly to the Naples Children & Education Foundation to benefit underprivileged and at-risk children in Collier County. In the first 13 years, the Festival has raised in excess of \$110 million for children's charities.

The weekend begins Friday morning with an event that demonstrates the real importance of the Festival, a "Meet the Kids" event, where patrons meet children and charities benefited by NCEF, and see first-hand how their generosity is improving the lives of underprivileged and at-risk children throughout Collier County. A luncheon and wine-tasting follow. That evening, dinners designed around the theme, this year "Celebrate the Journey," and featuring the talents of the Festival's renowned Celebrity Chefs and Vintners take place in private homes across Naples.

On Saturday, after a lunch showcasing the talents of the chefs of The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort, Naples on its Grand Lawn, 550 guests participate in a fast-paced auction that offers more than 60 lots of exceptional wines, dining experiences, custom travel packages, rare automobiles and more. Following the auction, patrons attend the "Wine Down," an informal gathering with more incredible wine, food and music.

Finally, Sunday's Celebration Brunch ends the weekend with a salute to guests, sponsors, vintners and chefs.

The Festival ticket package is \$8,500 per couple or \$20,000 for a two-couple package with reserved seating at the same vintner dinner.

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The Naples Children & Education Foundation, founded in 2000, is committed to supporting charitable programs that improve the physical, emotional and educational lives of underprivileged and at-risk children in Collier County. Its primary fundraiser, The Naples Winter Wine Festival, is the largest global event of its kind, and has raised in excess of \$110 million in its first 13 years for annual grants to 37 beneficiary organizations and 7 strategic initiatives. Festival dates for 2014 are January 24-26. Additional information is available at www.napleswinefestival.com.

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Photos are attached.







