

Menil²⁵

HAPPY 25TH BIRTHDAY, MENIL!

Come celebrate with us Saturday, September 22

Free and Open to All, Party kicks off on museum front lawn at 3 pm

Music – Dancing – Scavenger Hunt – Birthday cake



Houston, September 11, 2012 – Cutting the ceremonial ribbon in 1987, Dominique de Menil opened the doors to the museum that bears the family name with these welcoming words, “Houston, this is your museum.”

That auspicious occasion also marked the completion of the first U.S. building by the acclaimed Italian architect Renzo Piano, who designed, with his client, a home for art, free of charge and open to all.

In the quarter-century since that inaugural day, the Menil Collection established itself not only as a uniquely Houston treasure – an organic component of the Museum District residential neighborhood, surrounded by green space and bungalows – but as an international destination for all who love art and architecture. The Menil is a local and global treasure.

Join us in celebrating the Menil’s 25th birthday on **Saturday, September 22** with a neighborhood party, free and open to all.

Festivities begin at 3:00 p.m. with a promenade performance by the legendary, award-winning Kashmere Reunion Stage Band (of “Thunder Soul” fame) and continue with the

renowned TSU Jazz Ensemble. Each band will include in their performance their own distinctive version of *Happy Birthday!*



The outdoor festivities continue with improvisational jazz dancing on the lawn (thank you, City Dance Company!) and a Scavenger Hunt for children.

From the City of Houston, a Mayor's Proclamation honoring the Menil will be presented to museum director

Josef Helfenstein.

Bring a picnic blanket and enjoy the music, dancing, treasure hunt – and of course, birthday cake and ice cream – until the final notes (and birthday candles) are blown out at 6 o'clock!

About the Menil: Housing a world of art from the prehistoric era to modern day, the still-growing Menil Collection began as the private art collection of Houston philanthropists John and Dominique de Menil. From war-torn Europe, the de Menils arrived in their adopted city in 1941. Long before John's death in 1973, they began planning a museum that would hold their dynamic collection of art, in spare, light-filled galleries (a building not unlike their welcoming, Modernist home) and embody their ideas about art as an essential part of life that should be made available all to experience. Please join us in the celebrating the museum's first quarter century and commemorating the legacy of its founders.

Photos: Jim Love, *Flowers*, 1965. The Menil Collection. Courtesy of the Estate of Jim Love. Jim Love, *Jack*, 1971. The Menil Collection. Courtesy of the Estate of Jim Love.

Menil²⁵ Calendar

[Voices of the Menil: A Cell Phone Audio Walk](#)

Launched Friday, August 10, 2012

Stroll the museum's campus accompanied by the recorded words of John and Dominique de Menil, Renzo Piano, and others whose descriptions will illuminate the outdoor sculpture and architecture for visitors.

[Dear John and Dominique: Letters and Drawings from the Menil Archives](#)

On view Friday, August 10, 2012, through January 6, 2013

This 25th anniversary exhibition celebrates the museum's founders through letters they exchanged with family members, as well as the artists, curators, museum directors, architects, and intellectuals who were their friends. This exhibition is generously supported by Baker Botts L.L.P., William F. Stern, and the City of Houston.

Making a Museum

Calvin Tomkins

Wednesday, October 17, 2012, 7:00 p.m.

Author Calvin Tomkins, who over three decades reported on the art milieu of John and Dominique de Menil in the New Yorker, recalls their world in conversation with Josef Helfenstein, director of the Menil Collection.

Poems for a Quarter Century

Saturday, November 3, 2012, 7:00 p.m.

Sasha West, poet, professor, and literary editor, will curate an evening of poetry readings about art and artists whose work hangs in the Menil Collection, including poems by Houston school children who visit the museum through the Writing at the Menil program.

Philip Glass in Performance

Sunday, December 2, Noon

Celebrated American composer Philip Glass will perform an original composition commissioned by the Menil Collection, one of a series of études that have been likened to J.S. Bach's Inventions.

Free Public Program, Tickets Required

For more information write to press@menil.org or call 713-535-3170