

DRAWING MORE THAN 450 ENTRIES FROM ACROSS HOUSTON, THE MENIL COLLECTION'S "NAME GAME" CONCLUDES WITH A WINNER:

BISTRO MENIL

Museum's Restaurant Scheduled to Open Near Labor Day

HOUSTON, TX, January 8, 2014— Challenging Houstonians to name the museum's long-planned and much-anticipated restaurant, the Menil Collection has selected Bistro Menil from the hundreds of entries. At a museum press conference Wednesday morning, Menil Director Josef Helfenstein, introduced chef Greg Martin, who announced the name. Helfenstein also thanked all those who participated in the museum's "name game."

"We welcome this day," said Helfenstein, "which marks another step forward in our long-range plan to enhance the Menil campus. Bistro Menil is a key component to the museum's new gateway, providing a new meeting ground for our local, national, and international visitors. Speaking for all of my colleagues and our neighbors, I heartily thank all those who participated in our challenge. We are delighted by the name."

Bistro Menil emerged from more than 450 entries that took inspiration from the museum founders (John and Dominique de Menil), echoed the names of works of art and artists in the collection, and referenced the urban oasis anchored by the Menil, and reflected upon the green campus and the gray palette of the museum building and bungalows.

Special thanks go to Houstonian and former Menil neighborhood resident Americo Nonini, the contestant who submitted the winning entry. "I'm honored," said Nonini, who once lived on the block now occupied by the Menil. The name, he added, "was my way of nodding to the French origins of the founders."

Americo Nonini attended the announcement, and will be on hand when the new restaurant approaches opening day. His reward for dreaming up the name is a table for two at Bistro Menil.

Bistro Menil, housed in a bungalow sited in the very spot selected for a café 25 years ago by museum architect Renzo Piano, is slated for a Labor Day opening.

"We're really excited to announce the name of our new restaurant," said chef Greg Martin. "Bistro Menil will be a wonderful new amenity for museum-goers, a warm and

welcoming neighborhood meeting place for the community, and destination restaurant to be enjoyed by all.”

Greg Martin has been prominent in Houston since the 1980s as a leading chef and restaurateur, best known for his work at Café Annie, Taco Milagro and Café Express. His culinary career has been shaped by his years in Houston and his extensive travels throughout the United States and Europe.

Contact:

Vance Muse or Gretchen Sammons

Menil Press Office

713 535 3170

press@menil.org

www.menil.org