

## INTERNATIONAL ENTERTAINER ANGÉLIQUE KIDJO TO PERFORM AT THE MENIL COLLECTION'S 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY BALL



**Houston, TX, October 26, 2017** – The Menil Collection announced today that world-renowned singer and humanitarian Angélique Kidjo will be the star entertainer at *Luminous: The Menil Collection's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball*, on December 2, 2017. Internationally acclaimed for her synthesis of African words and melodies and contemporary sounds, the Benin-born, New York-based musical artist will perform original music along with selections from her versions of the songs on the classic Talking Heads album *Remain in Light*, which are the focus of her rapturously received current tour.

“As an artist, I always try to find a way to create bridges between cultures,” Kidjo says. “I am thrilled to be performing for the guests at this anniversary ball, knowing how the Menil Collection is so dedicated to promoting dialogue between the art of Africa, Europe and the Americas.”

A Grammy-award-winning artist, Angélique Kidjo has collaborated with musicians ranging from Alicia Keys and John Legend to Ziggy Marley and Philip Glass. She is also a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, who has been involved with numerous humanitarian efforts focused on education, health, and peacekeeping throughout Africa. In 2016, she performed at the opening ceremony of the National Museum of African American Culture and History in Washington D.C.

### **About *Luminous: The Menil Collection's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball***

On Saturday, December 2—the eve of the final full moon before the winter solstice—Menil friends and supporters will gather under a bright night sky to honor the enduring legacy of the museum and celebrate its radiant future at *Luminous: The Menil Collection's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball*. The gala evening will honor Louisa Stude Sarofim, Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Life Trustee of the Menil Collection. *Luminous* is a rare occasion for Houston, since the Menil holds galas once every five years, making this only the fourth in the museum's history. *Luminous* will be the high point of a series of exciting 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary festivities, including a benefit party of the Menil Contemporaries (the museum's young patrons group), member and community celebrations, and public programs.

Staged in a beautiful tent on the Menil's expansive lawn, *Luminous* will take its visual theme from Surrealist artist Max Ernst's small moonlit scene, *Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year* (1955), a gift from the artist to Dominique and John de Menil.

Proceeds from *Luminous* will go directly toward maintenance of the museum and neighborhood, the organization of world-class exhibitions and programs, and keeping the Menil Collection always free of charge, as a gift to the city of Houston.

Angelique Kidjo's contribution to the evening will be an exclusive, intimate performance for *Luminous* guests. Single tickets are still available but are expected to sell out. Single tickets start at \$2,500. For more information or to purchase, please email [events@menil.org](mailto:events@menil.org).

### **About the Menil Collection**

A legacy of the philanthropists John and Dominique de Menil, the Menil Collection opened in 1987. The museum presents regular rotations of artworks from its growing permanent collection, organizes special exhibitions and programs throughout the year, publishes scholarly books, and conducts research into the conservation of modern and contemporary art. The Menil Collection's main museum building anchors a parklike 30-acre campus, which also includes the Cy Twombly Gallery, a site-specific Dan Flavin installation, the Byzantine Fresco Chapel—now a venue for long-term installations by contemporary artists—and outdoor sculpture. A new building for the Menil Drawing Institute by Johnston Marklee, opening in the spring of 2018, will be the first freestanding facility in the United States designed expressly for the exhibition and study of modern and contemporary drawings. The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and charges no admission fee.

**On view at the Menil**

*Thirty Works for Thirty Years* – On view through January 28, 2018

*Francis Alijs: The Fabiola Project* – On view through October 28, 2018

*Mona Hatoum: Terra Infirma* – On view through February 25, 2018

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Photo of Angélique Kidjo: Sofia and Mauro

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