

**David W. Leebron, President of Rice University,
to Address Business Leaders at
the Menil's *Corporate Conversations V***

Monday, April 29, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

***Gold Level Sponsors: Bracewell & Giuliani L.L.P., Charles Butt/H-E-B,
Gensler, Oiltanking Partners, L.P.***

***Silver Level Sponsors: Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, BBVA Compass, Eagle Global
Advisors/Eddie Allen, James L. Phillips, Salient Partners, Zilkha Biomass Energy***

Houston, TX, April 11, 2013 – Menil Director Josef Helfenstein has announced that the fifth consecutive *Corporate Conversations* luncheon, the signature event of the museum's corporate program, will feature keynote speaker David W. Leebron, President of Rice University. The event will take place on Monday, April 29th from 11.30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the main foyer of the celebrated museum.

President Leebron's presentation, "You Must Love Beautiful Things: Universities and the Arts" will focus on the importance of the arts in the context of higher education, and the long-standing ties between Rice University and the Menil Collection in particular. In addition, the luncheon will encourage business leaders to engage with the museum while also providing executive networking opportunities.

Following the luncheon, Menil Curator Clare Elliott will offer guests a private tour of the newly installed exhibition, *Forrest Bess: Seeing Things Invisible*.

Said Menil Director Josef Helfenstein: "For the fifth consecutive year, we are honored to host a gathering of accomplished members of our professional community, and we look forward to making new friends in the corporate world. For making this event possible, I would also like to extend a special thanks to our Gold and Silver Level sponsors."

David W. Leebron, who became Rice University's seventh president in 2004, has overseen a period of growth and transformation for the institution. Early in his presidency, Leebron engaged

in extensive consultations that produced the *Vision for the Second Century*, a comprehensive ten-point plan for Rice's growth and advancement as one of the world's premier research universities. A native of Philadelphia, Leebron is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, where he was elected president of the Harvard Law Review. Following a judicial clerkship on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, he taught at the UCLA School of Law in 1980. After two years in private practice, he joined the faculty at the NYU School of Law in 1983. In 1989, Leebron joined the faculty of Columbia Law School, where in 1996 he was appointed dean and served in that position until coming to Rice. Leebron has also been a visiting fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law in Hamburg, Germany, and a Jean Monnet Visiting Professor at Bielefeld University. He is a member of the political science faculty at Rice, and has written in the areas of international trade and investment, torts, privacy, corporate law and human rights. He serves on the boards of the KIPP Foundation, Internet2, the Greater Houston Partnership, BioHouston, NCAA Division 1 and the IMAX Corporation. He is the recipient of an honorary degree from Nankai University in Tianjin, China, and was awarded Commandeur de l'Ordre National du Mérite by the government of France. He and his wife Y. Ping Sun have two children, Daniel and Merissa.

Corporate Conversations V is made possible through the generosity of our corporate sponsors. The Menil would like to extend its gratitude to the event's Gold Level Sponsors, Bracewell & Giuliani, L.L.P.; Charles Butt/H-E-B; Gensler; and Oiltanking Partners, L.P.; as well as our Silver Level Sponsors, Anadarko Petroleum Corporation; BBVA Compass; Eagle Global Advisors/ Eddie Allen; James L. Phillips; Salient Partners; and Zilkha Biomass Energy.

The Menil Collection has established a number of opportunities for collaboration with the most dynamic corporations in Houston, including the sponsorship of events such as *Men of Menil* and *Who R U?*, as well as membership in the museum's Corporate Partners Program.

Created by John and Dominique de Menil, the Menil Collection is recognized as one of the most significant privately assembled art collections of modern times. Housed in famed architect Renzo Piano's first U.S. building, that core collection continues to grow. Now numbering approximately 20,000 paintings, sculptures, drawings, photographs, films, and rare books, it embodies the founders' belief that art has the power to touch the human spirit. Admission to the museum – as well as to all exhibitions and public programs – is free of charge, encouraging frequent visits. As Dominique announced on the Menil's opening day in 1987, "Houston, this is your museum."

Owing in part to investments from the corporate community, the Menil is proud to offer these extraordinary opportunities to our city, free of charge, for years to come.

Contact:

Vance Muse or Gretchen Sammons

Menil Press Office

713 535 3170

press@menil.org

www.menil.org