

Bank of America's Rena De Sisto Will Address

Houston's Business Leaders at

Corporate Conversations VI

A Luncheon Event at The Menil Collection

Monday, April 28, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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Houston, TX, April 14, 2014 – The Menil Collection's sixth annual **Corporate Conversations** luncheon will feature a keynote address by Rena De Sisto, Bank of America's Global Arts and Culture executive in charge of International Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

Sharing insights into Bank of America's diverse arts funding programs, which engage local communities, individuals, and organizations worldwide, Ms. De Sisto's address, "Global Arts Funding: The Strategic and Social Imperatives," promises to resonate with leaders of Houston's business and arts communities who will gather in the museum's main foyer for the April 28th luncheon.

Launched in 2008, **Corporate Conversations** is designed to encourage Houston's corporate community to become familiar with the museum and to educate on the Menil's many activities and programs, while also providing valuable networking opportunities.

One of the world's largest corporate foundations, The Bank of America Charitable Foundation is at the midpoint of a ten-year plan to disburse \$2 billion in support. The company's commitment to the arts is evident at the Menil through its national sponsorship of the exhibition *Magritte: The Mystery of the Ordinary, 1926-1938*, which is drawing record crowds to the museum. Bank of America's CSR program presents a comprehensive approach to doing business in an economically sustainable and socially

responsible way. As the corporation's philanthropic leader, Ms. De Sisto, who is based in New York, has developed programs unique to Bank of America, including *Art in Our Communities*[®], *Museums on Us*[®], and the *Art Conservation Project*. She also oversees initiatives focused on the economic empowerment of women, including the *Global Ambassadors* program.

Ms. De Sisto displays her personal commitment to the arts in her roles as a Managing Director of the Metropolitan Opera and as a member of the Chairman's Advisory Group of the British Museum. She also serves on the boards of Opera America, the Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi in Florence, and the Fund for the Preservation of Diplomatic Treasures Abroad.

Said Menil Director Josef Helfenstein, who will preside over the event: "For the sixth consecutive year we are honored to host this gathering of accomplished members of our professional community, whose support is vital to the arts in Houston and across the country, and we look forward to making new friends in the corporate world."

After the luncheon, Menil Assistant Curator, Clare Elliott will offer guests an exclusive guided tour of the exhibition ***Magritte: The Mystery of the Ordinary, 1926-1938***.

Welcoming collaborations and partnerships with Houston's dynamic corporate community, the Menil encourages membership in its Corporate Partners Program. The museum also hosts special annual fundraisers such as springtime's *Men of Menil*; and October's *Who R U?* For more information regarding participation in the *Corporate Conversations* event, or to learn more about corporate partnerships at the Menil Collection, please contact Caroline Williams at (713) 525-9454 or cwilliams@menil.org

The Menil Collection

Begun by John and Dominique de Menil and embodying their belief that art has the power to touch the human spirit, the Menil houses one of the finest privately assembled collections of modern times. Ranging from prehistoric artifacts to art of the present day and housed in architect Renzo Piano's first U.S. building (which has been called a work of art in itself), the collection of paintings, sculptures, works on paper, photographs, and rare books continues to grow. Admission to the museum, as well as to all exhibitions and public programs, is free of charge, owing in part to investments from the corporate community.