

# Marlene Yu Museum grand opening Sunday

By Alexandria Burris  
 aburris@gannett.com

Northwest Louisiana residents soon can connect with the natural world around them at Shreveport's first contemporary art museum, the Marlene Yu Museum, in downtown.

A preview party is from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. today. The museum's grand opening is from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday.

The museum is named after New York-based artist Marlene Yu and will occupy the 36,500-square-foot former YWCA building at 710 Travis Street. Yu's daughter and museum director, Stephanie Lusk, said Yu's works of art will give museum-goers a birds-eye view of na-

ture.

"These are some of her large scale works, and to experience them in person is really something," Lusk said. "And hopefully (they) can encourage people to see nature in a new way."

Yu paints nature. Her colorful works of art range in size from 37 feet long and 18 feet high, Lusk said.

"She works on the borderline of abstraction and realism," Lusk said. "As an abstract expressionist, she's taken different themes, phenomenon from nature — like volcanoes, geysers, avalanches, underwater coral, amber and basically blown them up on canvas."

Lusk said her mother's art, which is open to interpretation of the viewer, shows nature at its most microscopic level. Some of Yu's works are about the movement of themes in nature, she said.

"We believe that connecting will nature is also the first step toward conservation," she said.

Lusk also said Yu's artistic style is a marriage of influences she gained while training in Taiwan and from the training she received while working on her graduate degree at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Though the museum bears her name, Yu is not the only artist who will be on display there.



DOUGLAS COLLIER/THE TIMES

Marlene Yu poses next to the main gallery at the Marlene Yu Museum housed in what once was the YWCA building in downtown Shreveport. The museum will hold a grand opening Sunday with works by Yu and pieces associated with their Rainforest Art Foundation.

**WANT TO GO?**

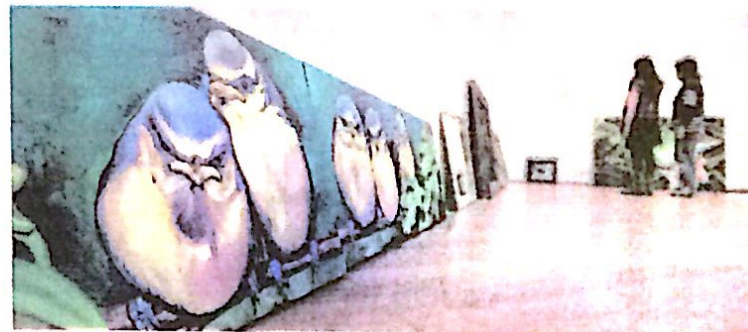
**What:** Marlene Yu Museum Preview Party.  
**Admission:** Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$125. Stephanie Lusk said \$75 of the ticket price is tax-deductible and will benefit the Rainforest Cafe's Young Artist Foundation and the Biology & Art Program.  
**Info:** Call (318) 717-9111 or visit the Rainforest Arts Foundation online to RSVP.

**What:** Grand Opening of the Marlene Yu Museum.  
**Admission:** Free, but there is a suggested \$10 donation to benefit the Rainforest Art Foundation.

Lusk said Yu's dream is to bring together other artists. The old YWCA building also is home to the Rainforest Art Foundation, which Yu founded in New York with the intention of bringing together local, international, emerging and professional artists.

The preview party and grand opening will include 100 works of art. The preview party will also include performance art, musicians, dance and poetry. The dance program at Caddo Magnet High School also will perform.

The Marlene Yu Museum will eventually



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Marlene Yu and her daughter Stephanie look over pieces like the one at left by local artist Shirlene Alexander of Caddo Magnet High School before hanging them for a show for the Rainforest Art Foundation.

incorporate social media to give visitors in and outside of Shreveport a more individualized experience.

"The first go is the main exhibition and gift shop. As we continue into our program, it will even more accessible to

a broad audience that's outside of Shreveport," Lusk said.

allyburris