

# Seven solo exhibitions of Marlene Yu begin Sept. 25

## From Staff Reports

Lucky Sevens, a series of seven solo exhibitions of New York artist Marlene Tseng Yu at seven local venues, begins Sept. 25 at the Louisiana State Exhibit Museum.

The first show — Yu's 70th exhibition, "Purple Swamp and Nature Abstraction" — features the most recent paintings of the 77-year-old artist and is inspired by the swamps of south Louisiana. It will kick off with a Meet Marlene Party at 5:30 p.m. Sept. 25 at the Louisiana State Exhibit Museum and run through Oct. 31.

Subsequent shows, each with their own theme, will follow at varying points throughout this year and next at venues including the Robinson Film Center, artspace, Sci-Port Louisiana's Science Center, Bossier Arts Council Meadows Museum at Centenary College and the Marlene Yu Museum under construction on Travis Street.

Each exhibition includes selections from Yu's 4,000 paintings, which range from 16 inches to 18 feet high to 37 feet long. Themed shows include works inspired by rainforests and fire, some depicting natural disasters and the elements, as well as others from a period in which Yu depicted a love story between the figurative female and her male counterpart, represented by animals.

Admission will vary at each venue, and visitors can print an online passport to be stamped at each of the



Iris MacLean gives a tour of the Marlene Yu Museum, where the old YWCA was located on Travis Street. HENRIETTA WILDSMITH/THE TIMES

seven locations. Passports with all seven stamps can be turned into the Marlene Yu Museum at the conclusion of Lucky Sevens for a collectible book.

A native of Taiwan, Yu's work integrates Chinese landscape painting and American Expressionism, integrating the ancient Chinese philosophy of art with modern application, her biography states.

She founded Rainforest Art Foundation in 2001 to bring like-minded artists involved in the green arts movement together. The foundation purchased the former YWCA building, which it's renovating into a contemporary art museum featuring Yu's work and to house its headquarters.

The foundation and mu-



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seum want to help make Shreveport an international destination for nature-inspired arts, as well as an educational and cultural hub by strengthening the down-

town arts community, attracting young talent to work, play and stay, and furthering the area's intergenerational family values.

## LUCKY SEVENS

### "Purple Swamp and Nature Abstraction"

Sept. 25-Oct. 31 at Louisiana State Exhibit Museum

Exhibit features Yu's most recent paintings inspired by the swamps of south Louisiana. Meet Marlene Party, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Sept. 25.

### "Emerald Forest Series"

Sept. 26-Nov. 30 at Robinson Film Center

Exhibit features works inspired by the rainforest, the movie "The Emerald Forest" and humankind's relation to nature.

### "Fire — Element of Life"

Nov. 15-Jan. 17 at Mainspace @artspace

Exhibit features fire-inspired works from multiple series

### "Forces of Nature"

Dec. 18-May 31 at Marlene Yu Museum, 710 Travis St.

Exhibit features paintings from Yu's 50-year series relating to natural disasters and the elements. Preview party for museum grand opening, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Dec. 18, and museum grand opening, 1-4 p.m. Dec. 21. Tickets for both available online at marleneyumuseum.org or by calling 717-9111.

### "Dream Series"

Feb. 21-May 3 at Meadows Museum of Art at Centenary College

Exhibit explores Yu's uncharacteristically figurative works from a three-year period depicting a love story between the figurative female and her male counterpart represented by various animals.

### "Melting Glacier Series"

March 17-April 26 at Sci-Port Louisiana's Science Center

Exhibit falls in line with Earth Day and Sci-Port will have an environmental education program in honor of National Environmental Education Week.

### "Crystal Reef Series"

June 1-July 31, 2015, at Bossier Arts Council

Exhibit includes paintings of coral and underwater abstractions.