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Note: An image of the poster is available in the [online media gallery](#).

## SPOLETO FESTIVAL USA

2019

PRESS RELEASE

### Spoletto Festival USA 2019 Poster Features Work by Los Angeles–based Painter Laura Owens



**February 28, 2019 (Charleston, South Carolina)** – Festival General Director Nigel Redden revealed the 2019 Spoletto Festival USA poster, featuring the work of acclaimed painter Laura Owens. The poster is available for purchase online at [spoletousa.org](http://spoletousa.org) or by calling 843.579.3100 (Monday to Friday, 10:00am to 6:00pm, and Saturday 10:00am to 2:00pm). Beginning April 30, the poster will be available at the Festival box office, located in the Charleston Gaillard Center (open daily from 9:00 to 5:00pm).

The painting, *Untitled* (2016, oil and screen printing ink on linen, 20" x 15"), received its first showing at the contemporary art gallery Sadie Coles HQ in London. Owens draws from a wide range of source material and references—from embroidery and textiles to texts and decorative patterns—and often fuses the languages of abstraction, decoration, and figuration. Her work has been the subject of solo exhibitions around the globe, most recently a mid-career retrospective featuring more than 60 of her paintings, which opened in November 2017 at the Whitney Museum of American Art and traveled subsequently to the Dallas Museum of Art and MOCA Los Angeles, where the exhibition is on view through March 25, 2019.

Redden approached Owens to be the featured artist for the Festival’s 2019 poster after seeing her spectacular retrospective at the Whitney. “Ms. Owens has an extraordinary range, and the Festival is lucky to receive one of her paintings for the poster,” he says. “I think this particular work exemplifies the vibrancy, and also the curiosity, of the Festival. The unusual face within the piece certainly invites a

Image caption: Laura Owens’s *Untitled*, 2016; oil and screen printing ink on linen; 20" x 15"; Courtesy the artist; Gavin Brown’s enterprise, New York, Rome; Sadie Coles HQ, London; and Galerie Gisela Captain, Cologne.

closer look, and Ms. Owens’s layering techniques seem to conjure different ways of looking at things, which is very reflective of the Festival’s nature.”

Since 1977, Spoleto Festival USA’s season posters have featured works by such artists as David Hockney, Charles Gaines, Jonathan Green, Maya Lin, Chuck Close, Elizabeth Murray, Sol Le Witt, Jasper Johns, and Christian Thee, among others. A gallery of past posters available for sale can be found at [spoletousa.org](http://spoletousa.org). Spoleto Festival USA posters are limited editions and not reprinted once sold out.

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## Laura Owens

Over the course of her career, Laura Owens (b. 1970) has become recognized for her ranging and experimental approach to the medium of painting—an approach that embraces a breadth of sources from the avant-garde to the populist to the decorative. Other recent solo exhibitions include those at the CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts in San Francisco (2016), Secession in Vienna (2015), and Kunstmuseum Bonn in Germany (2011). Owens was born in Ohio and studied at California Institute of the Arts and Rhode Island School of Design. She lives and works in Los Angeles.

## Spoletto Festival USA

Founded in 1977, Spoleto Festival USA is an annual 17-day performing arts festival in Charleston, SC, that presents leading artists in classical and popular music, opera, jazz, dance, and theater. The 2019 season takes place May 24 to June 9 in various locations on the downtown peninsula, including the historic Dock Street Theatre and the Charleston Gaillard Center. Spoleto Festival USA is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization.

### Tickets

**Tickets are on sale** to the general public beginning January 16 at 10:00am online at [spoletousa.org](http://spoletousa.org) and by phone at 843.579.3100.

**In-person box office operations** will be located at Charleston Gaillard Center beginning April 30.

Tickets may be purchased Monday through Sunday, 9:00am to 5:00pm.

**Go Spoleto! hotel-and-ticket packages** are available in partnership with eight Charleston hotels:

Ansonborough Inn, The Beach Club at Charleston Harbor Resort & Marina, Belmond Charleston Place, The Dewberry, Francis Marion Hotel, Hyatt House Charleston-Historic District, Hyatt Place Charleston-Historic District, and The Vendue. Guests can book a room with one of the Festival hotel partners and

receive a code to purchase a range of specially priced performance tickets. For more information, visit [spoletousa.org/gospoleto](http://spoletousa.org/gospoleto).

**Festival gift certificates** can be purchased in any amount and used towards performance tickets, merchandise such as Festival posters, or charitable contributions to Spoleto Festival USA. To purchase gift certificates, order online at [spoletousa.org](http://spoletousa.org) or by phone at 843.579.3100.

## Images

A selection of high resolution images can be found in Spoleto Festival USA's [online gallery](#).

For more information, visit the [press room](#).