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intelligent forms of lifestyle

Encountering **CULTURE**FROM MUSIC TO FILM TO ART, CENTRAL FLORIDA
CELEBRATES AND EXPANDS CULTURAL HORIZONS.

The Tiger Next Door will be screened at the 19th annual Florida Film Festival in the Documentary Feature category.

LIVING OUT LOUD

Orlando hosts several prominent film and music festivals throughout the year. From April 22-24, the **9th Annual Florida Music Festival** takes place in downtown Orlando as bands from all genres perform in more than 15 venues. Keynote presenters this year are co-presidents of Universal Republic Records, Monte and Avery Lipman.

Following the keynote is a day of industry seminars covering all aspects of the music industry, including major producers, artist managers and music-based law firms. There will also be discussions on the future of music technology, including the latest industry trends and Web-based companies such as ReverbNation, Groovespark, PureVolume, Activision, EA-Tiburon and more.

The **19th Annual Florida Film Festival** (www.FloridaFilmFestival.com) will be held April 9-18. The 10-day event showcases the best in independent cinema, along with fine wine and cuisine, and includes movie screenings, food and wine events, industry parties, Q&As, and much more. Celebrity chefs who will be on hand include Donna Moore, Hominy Stehling and Matt and Ted Lee. Everything kicks off on April 9 with the opening night film screening and party, *No Grits, No Glory!* Ticket packages and all-access platinum passes are available.



Fish by Kurt Zimmerman will be on display at the Hannibal Square Folk Art Festival.

COURTESY CREALDÉ SCHOOL OF ART

The **8th Annual Global Peace Film Festival** (GPF) (www.peacefilmfest.org), to be held September 21-26, seeks to utilize the power of film to further the goal of peace on earth. Attendees can see films from around the world, hear educational panels, meet filmmakers and special guests, and learn about the work of local activists. The GPF is accepting entries through May 21.

independent filmmakers from around the world.

GET FESTIVE

Several major art festivals also call Central Florida home and attract top talent from across the nation.

Picturesque Winter Park is home to two well-established art festivals, as well as a new one for 2010. First, the

students is also on display at the Leon Theodore Schools Exhibit. And a special Children's Workshop Village is set up for kids ages 2-to 12, where local museums offered hands-on arts and crafts activities. This year's festival included a performance by jazz artist Peter White and a refined food and beverage experience.

New to Winter Park this year is the first **Hannibal Square Folk Art Festival**, scheduled for Saturday, April 10 in front of the Hannibal Square Heritage Center. The event offers an opportunity to meet and purchase the artwork of Florida folk artists. The festival also features soul food, live music and a hands-on KidFolk Workshop for children, led by renowned Orlando folk artist Linda Schapper.

The 37th annual **Winter Park Autumn Art Festival** (www.winterpark.org) is being held October 9-10. It is the only fine art show in the state that features all Florida artists in categories including ceramics, crafts, drawings and graphics, fiber, jewelry, painting, photography and sculpture. Annually, more than 70,000 people attend this free event.

Just up the road in Maitland, the **34th Annual Maitland Rotary Art Festival** (www.maitlandrotaryartfestival.com) will feature 150 artists and take place October 1-3. This is one of the few festivals in the country that offers evening hours, beginning Friday from 6-10 p.m. Festival hours for Saturday are 10 a.m.-10 p.m. and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday. With live music and sparkling lights, evenings here make for a memorable experience for artists and patrons alike. Admission is free and proceeds from the sale of food and festival posters, as well as parking, benefit local charities.

Further north, the **Winter Springs Festival of the Arts** (www.wsfota.org) will be held October 16-17. This year, festival organizers are working on a participative element that will involve community artists creating public paintings. The event will also include a pre-series of *Artists Talk Back* evenings at some of the restaurants in the Winter Springs Town Center. A specific artist will have work displayed in a particular restaurant for a few weeks in advance



Taylor Swift performs at the 2004 Florida Music Festival in Orlando.

COURTESY FLORIDA MUSIC FESTIVAL

From November 10-14, the **Orlando Film Festival** (www.orlandofilmfest.com) takes place at the Plaza Cinema Cafe. The mission of the festival is to support the cause of independent cinema and to promote culture and the arts in downtown Orlando by exposing a wide audience to the unique and diverse stories told by

51st Annual Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival (www.wpsaf.org) takes place each spring. The event is one of the country's premier juried art shows; over 225 artists are invited to attend. Entry categories included clay, digital art, jewelry, metal, painting, photography, sculpture, wood and more. Artwork by Orange County middle and high school

COURTESY ORLANDO MUSEUM OF ART



The Orlando Museum of Art showcases local as well as national and international exhibitions.

of the festival, and the artist will make an appearance at the restaurant to discuss his or her work.

From November 12-14, Downtown Disney brings art to life at the annual **Festival of the Masters**. Featuring 150 award-winning artists, this world renowned show showcases one-of-a-kind and limited edition painting, photography, sculpture, jewelry and more. Chalk art, live music, specialty foods and family-friendly activities round out the offerings.

The **Downtown Winter Garden Merchants Guild's 9th Annual Art Festival** (www.wgmerchants.org) is November 20-21. Artists from around the state will be represented at the event, which includes entertainment, children's activities, and food vendors. The shops and restaurants downtown will be open for business throughout the festival.

YEAR-ROUND ART

No matter when you need a culture fix, a trip to one of Central Florida's museums will not disappoint.

Founded in 1924, the **Orlando Museum of Art** (www.OMArt.org) strives to enrich the cultural life of Florida by providing excellence in the visual arts. The museum collects, preserves and interprets notable works of art; presents exhibitions of local, regional, national and international significance; and develops first-rate educational programs. Each year OMA presents 10-12

exhibitions on-site and 13 exhibitions off-site, award-winning art enrichment programs, unlimited gallery tours, teacher in-service training programs, video programs, distinguished lectures, art appreciation lectures, studio classes, lecture/luncheon programs and community outreach services.

Around the corner on Princeton Street, the **Mennello Museum of American Art** (www.mennellomuseum.com) offers a diverse collection of paintings and sculptures. At the heart of the museum is an outstanding permanent collection of paintings by artist Earl Cunningham (1893-1977). The museum regularly hosts receptions, Free Family Days, Evenings with the Director, lectures, gallery walks and other activities and events.

Just north of Orlando in Winter Park is the **Cornell Fine Arts Museum** (CFAM) (www.rollins.edu/cfam) on the campus of Rollins College. CFAM's original exhibitions are drawn from the 5,000 objects in its permanent collection, including paintings, prints, drawings and sculptures by artists such as Albert Bierstadt, Alex Katz, John Frederick Kensett, Henri Matisse, Thomas Moran and Pablo Picasso. The museum also welcomes traveling exhibitions and showcases a range of works from antiquity to cutting-edge contemporary. Public talks, films, and educational programs round out CFAM's offerings.

Also in Winter Park is the **Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American**

Art (www.morsemuseum.org). It features the world's most comprehensive collection of works by Louis Comfort Tiffany, including jewelry, pottery, paintings, art glass, leaded-glass windows and lamps, and the chapel interior he designed for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. The museum's also offers a collection of American pottery and collections of late 19th- and early 20th-century American painting, graphics, and decorative art.

Get a taste for some rustic works at the **Jeanine Taylor Folk Art Gallery** (www.jtfolkart.com) on First Street in Sanford. The gallery promotes contemporary folk artists with exhibitions, shows, events and educational programs. Featuring the works of 20 to 30 self-taught artists as well as eight working artist studios, the gallery is a hotbed for southern folk art in general, and Florida folk art in particular. Its Artist-in-Residence program brings in nationally-known artists every year.

GOOD LIVING

Abundant arts and cultural offerings are just part of what makes a city desirable, and when it comes to living the good life, it appears that Floridians are doing just that. Recent studies and rankings consistently placed local cities near the top of national lists of where people like to live. For instance, Oviedo was named in *Relocate America's* 2009 list of Top 100 Places to Live. The city also ranked in the 2009 *Money Magazine* list of Top 100 Best Small Towns in America. Nearby Winter Springs was recognized in the 2007 *Money Magazine* list of Best Places to Live. Meanwhile, CNN/*Money Magazine* continue to rank Lake Mary among the best small towns in Florida in which to live, and Winter Garden was named one of the fastest growing suburbs by Forbes.com. 

U N I V E R S I T Y O F C E N T R A L F L O R I D A

Green Jobs

When the U.S. energy office needed experts to train people for a new wave of “green” jobs they turned to UCF’s Florida Solar Energy Center (FSEC), the largest and most active state-supported solar energy institute in the nation. With \$2.8 million from the Department of Energy, FSEC will train workers in solar installation and generate new jobs across the Southeast.

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To learn more, visit fsec.ucf.edu.

