



# La Napoule Art Foundation

CLEWS CENTER FOR THE ARTS



Dedicated to preserving the legacy of Henry and Marie Clews, La Napoule Art Foundation seeks to nurture and inspire artistic talent, while fostering the creative process as a means of advancing cultural understanding.

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### Press Contact

Chelsey Philpot  
Communications Director  
T: 603-436-3040  
chelsey@clews.org





La Napoule Art Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. It was incorporated in 1951 by American expatriate Marie Clews as a memorial to her late husband and sculptor Henry Clews. Marie's dream was to create an international center for the arts at the Château de La Napoule, a medieval castle which the couple had spent 17 years restoring together.

**Museum** The Château de La Napoule, located just outside Cannes, France, is recognized as a *monument historique* and for its *jardins remarquables*. Henry's work, which blends a whimsical spirit with technical skill, is prominent throughout the museum. The Château also hosts rotating exhibitions featuring our prestigious resident alumni and other noted artists.

**Artist Residency Program** The residency program provides extraordinary talent with space for creation and exchange. Noted alumni include Faith Ringgold, Pors & Rao, and Nobel Laureates Gao Xingjian and Derek Wolcott.

**Arts Center** LNAF is proud to partner with universities and arts instructors around the world to offer master classes and workshops. The Château also offers children's art programs and a seafront café.

**US Alumni Exhibitions & Outreach** To promote our resident alumni and expand the impact of the artistic experience, LNAF holds exhibitions and community outreach programs in the US.

## ABOUT HENRY & MARIE CLEWS



Henry and Marie Clews left New York for France shortly after their 1914 marriage. Both shared a passion for the arts. When they discovered the Château de La Napoule, they found the perfect project on which to focus their creative energies.

Together they spent 17 years transforming this building into an artistic retreat. Marie worked as the architect and landscape designer—adding a turreted gate house, tall ramparts, seaside terraces, and acres of gardens. Henry continued his sculpture and adorned each capital, crevice, and column with a mythical creature.

The eccentric couple lived in a virtual dream at La Napoule. Henry preferred to be called Mancha, fancying himself a modern-day Don Quixote. Henry and Marie often dressed in costume, and had their servants do so as well. The Clews lived lavishly among the elite, hosting elaborate parties for European aristocrats and American expatriates. Yet they were also active in community affairs, inviting the townsfolk in for performances, celebrations, and mass in their courtyard.

The Clews lived happily at La Napoule together until Henry's untimely death in 1937. In 1951, in honor of her husband's memory, Marie founded La Napoule Art Foundation, opening up the couple's beloved retreat to artists and art lovers for generations to come.

**DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?**

**FINE ART EXPERIENCE FOR CHILDREN AND EVERYONE ELSE** LNAF hosted a special residency to explore how fine art appeals to children. An exhibition in Denver CO featured work on this same theme and partnered 2 local schools with exhibition artists and LNAF alumni. This visiting artist program was supported by the Laura Jane Musser Fund and will expand in 2013.

**PRIX DE LA NAPOULE** In 2010, LNAF established the Prix de La Napoule to honor the sculptural legacy of Henry Clews. This biennial prize recognizes a sculptor who has demonstrated exceptional accomplishment. The recipient receives a one-year residency and a summer exhibition at the Château. During this time, the Prix recipient conducts children's workshops and interacts with other residents and guests. Recipients: Serge van de Put (2011); Nicolas Lavarenne (2013).

**BEIRUT 39 RESIDENCY** LNAF partnered with Beirut 39, a project that identified the top 39 Arabic writers under 39. Six writers received residencies at the Château. With funding from the Doris Duke Foundation, LNAF organized an international video seminar between resident Youssef Rakha and students at the University of New Hampshire where he offered his account of the Egyptian protests.

**ME-NH RESIDENCY & EXHIBITION** LNAF invited 8 artists from Maine and New Hampshire to participate in a month-long residency. LNAF partnered with the noted Ogunquit Museum of American Art on the Coast of Maine to host an exhibition of the residents work—celebrating the transformation each artist underwent while in Residency.

**GULF COAST ARTISTS AT LA NAPOULE** The New Orleans' Gulf Coast was devastated by Hurricane Katrina—artists' studios and homes were left in ruins and a lifetime's worth of artwork was completely destroyed. LNAF created a special residency program to assist these artists in partnership with the New Orleans French Consulate. In celebration of these artists' tremendous talent and fortitude, LNAF organized exhibitions at the Chateau and at the prestigious Contemporary Arts Center in New Orleans.

