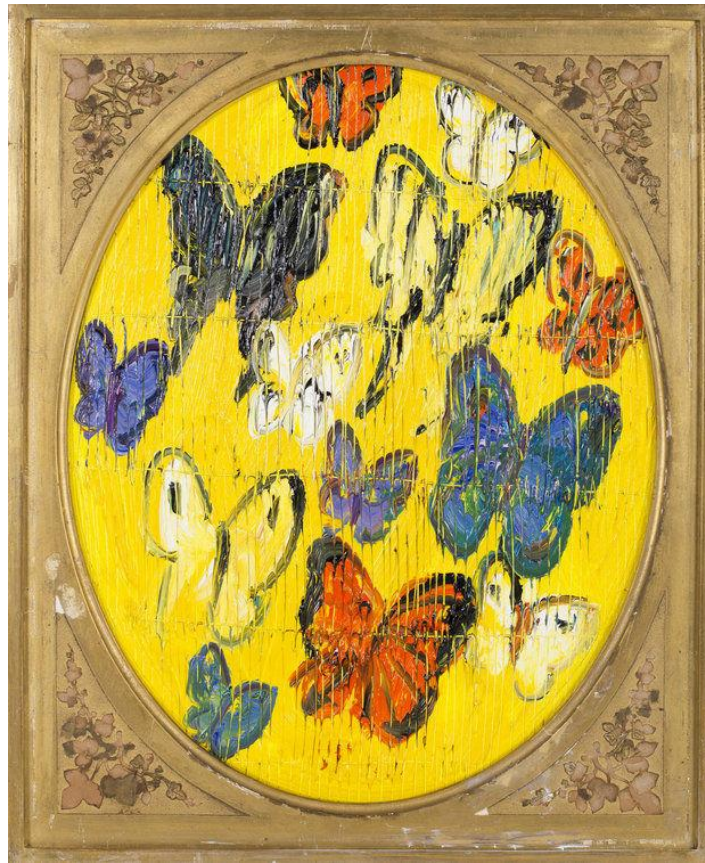


Hunt Slonem painting at center of Opera Louisiane's first Opera Ball

By Chelsea Brasted, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune The Times-Picayune



Hunt Slonem's "Spice Bush Swallowtail" will be auctioned off during Opera Louisiane's Butterfly Opera Ball on Monday, Feb. 2, 2015.
(Photo courtesy of Opera Louisiane)

Ahead of its production of "Madama Butterfly," Opera Louisiane is hosting its very first Opera Ball, inspired by the the Vienna Opera Ball. The Baton Rouge event is set to take place at the City Club on Monday, Feb. 2, and tickets are still available.

Opera Louisiane's version will offer a planned evening of musical performances, dinner and drinks.

"When (guests) come, they'll feel like they've been to an event and part of a production," said Opera Louisiane general director Leanne Clement.

The night will also include a silent auction of three special prizes: jewelry from The Gilded Lily, a trip to New York to stay at the Waldorf Astoria and a painting from renowned contemporary American artist Hunt Slonem. Bids on the painting will start at \$4,000.

Musical appearances will come from Magnolia Strings and guests artists who will perform in "Madama Butterfly" in March.