

PAUL KASMIN GALLERY

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Will Ryman's Golden Replica of Lincoln's Childhood Cabin Lands in New Orleans



"America" (2013), a full-scale replica of **Abraham Lincoln's** childhood log cabin that **Will Ryman** constructed out of chains, bullets, pills, assorted electronic components, jewelry, keyboard keys, and other assorted consumer flotsam, all coated in shiny gold paint, has been acquired by the **New Orleans Museum of Art** (NOMA), where the work will go on view Friday evening. The artist will be on hand to introduce the enormous artwork, along with NOMA's curator of modern and contemporary art **Miranda Lash**, Friday at 6pm.



The artwork made its debut at **Paul Kasmin Gallery** in February and is the second major acquisition for NOMA this month, following the the 20-foot-tall **Roy Lichtenstein** sculpture “Five Brushstrokes.” That 20-foot-tall piece and Ryman’s similarly large artwork — “America” is 14 feet wide, 14 feet long, and 13 feet tall — were both gifted to the museum by **Sydney and Walda Besthoff**.

“We are delighted to have this important work by Will Ryman for NOMA. Once again, Sydney and Walda Besthoff have made a significant acquisition possible,” said Susan M. Taylor, The Montine McDaniel Freeman Director. “Ryman’s work embodies the complexity of American history and provides a point of departure and discussion. It joins other important works in the collection and creates an opportunity for meaningful programming and curricular initiatives.”

— *Benjamin Sutton*