

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FINAL

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Polasek Museum Announces Upcoming Exhibition - Runs May 9 - August 20, 2023
George Nock: Breaking Barriers

WINTER PARK, Fla. –The Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens is pleased to announce our upcoming retrospective exhibition of the artwork of sculptor George Nock (American, 1946-2020), *George Nock: Breaking Barriers*. The exhibition will run May 9 – August 20, 2023. An accomplished artist and former NFL running back, George Nock devoted his life to the creation of realistic figures in bronze. Evident in his artwork is an appreciation of the human form, and firsthand knowledge of the amazing feats it could achieve. Whether sculpting historic figures, forgotten people, famed athletes, dancers, or musicians, he captured the fundamental nature of his subjects with a pose or expression. Nock's career was tragically cut short by his diagnosis with the COVID-19 virus, resulting in his passing in 2020.

The Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens is honored to partner with The George and Mary Nock Foundation to present a retrospective exposition of George Nock's artwork and celebrate his contributions as artist, athlete, and barrier breaker. The exhibition will highlight George Nock's final work, *Barrier Breakers*, a bronze sculpture commemorating the first racially integrated Little League baseball game in the deep South played at the historic site of Lake Lorna Doone Park, Orlando.

Artwork will be available for purchase with proceeds to benefit the George & Mary Nock Foundation and the hosting museum.

Exhibition Programming:

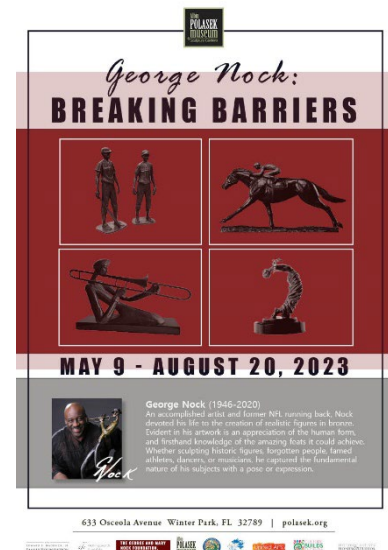
May 25 (Thursday) 6-8 pm - Screening of *Long Time Coming*, a 1955 Baseball Story

This documentary explores the historic 1955 Little League game played in Orlando when two groups of twelve-year-old boys defied the racial segregation that defined their time and changed the course of history.

Shawn Welcome, Orlando's poet laureate, will read his commemorative poem, *Diamonds*.

Ted Haddock, Executive Director, The Edward E. Haddock Jr. Family Foundation, and Producer for *Long Time Coming* will introduce the film.

June 14 (Wednesday) 6-8pm - **Mary Nock exhibition tour**, the widow of the renowned artist George Nock, will provide an in-depth interpretive tour of the *George Nock: Breaking Barriers* exhibition and share personal stories about the artist and his artwork.





About the Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens: Founded in 1961, the Albin Polasek Museum and Sculpture Gardens preserves the 200+ piece collection of world-renowned Czech-American sculptor Albin Polasek (1871-1965). Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the museum offers guided tours of Polasek's home, studio, and sculpture gardens. Thousands of visitors each year come from all over the world to be inspired by Polasek's story of emigrating to the United States in 1901, becoming a celebrated artist, and continuing to create monumental works of art from his wheelchair after suffering a debilitating stroke at age 70. The museum is also home to the historic 1885 Capen House that was saved from demolition, renovated, and opened to the public in 2015. For more information, visit polasek.org or find us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). The Polasek is proud to be a part of #wpinspires, arts and culture in the City of Winter Park.

For high-resolution images, contact Kimberly Lewis at marketing@polasek.org.