



# George Gershwin and Modern Art

## A Rhapsody in Blue

Olivia Mattis

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- Accompanies a major exhibition at Artis—Naples, The Baker Museum 10 February—16 June 2024, that will help celebrate the 100th anniversary of George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* and will include related music programming presented by the Naples Philharmonic
- First look at this unique element of George Gershwin's art and influence
- Includes many rarely seen works by major modern artists

George Gershwin is widely known and beloved for his innovative work as a composer, songwriter, and pianist, but his passion and talents extended to the visual arts as well. Before his untimely death at age 38, Gershwin produced numerous paintings, drawings, and photographs. His personal collection of modern art was one of the most significant of his day, including pieces by Pablo Picasso, Amedeo Modigliani, Vassily Kandinsky, Marc Chagall, Isamu Noguchi, David Alfaro Siqueiros, and others. Gershwin's music also inspired artwork by Miguel Covarrubias, Arthur Dove, Kara Walker, Andy Warhol, and many others. Featuring these three elements of Gershwin's artistic influence, as well as select ephemera and correspondence from his artistic circle, this beautifully designed volume offers a tour through Gershwin's multifaceted visual dimension, expanding our understanding of the composer, his music, and his impact on American cultural history.

**Dr. Olivia Mattis**, guest curator, is an award-winning scholar and lecturer who received her PhD in musicology from Stanford University. She is also the president of the Sousa Mendes Foundation a Holocaust remembrance organization honoring the hero who rescued her family from Nazi-occupied Europe.