



MEDIA CONTACT

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**North Carolina Museum of Art
Fall 2017–Spring 2018 Exhibition Schedule**

Venue Information

**North Carolina Museum of Art 2110 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh, NC
(919) 839-6262 Box Office: (919)715-5923**

FALL HIGHLIGHTS (EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS)



***Inspiring Beauty: 50 Years of Ebony Fashion Fair*
October 28, 2017–January 21, 2018
East Building, Meymandi Exhibition Gallery
Ticketed**

Inspiring Beauty tells the remarkable story of an extraordinary fashion show. The exhibition explores the 50-year history of the Ebony Fashion Fair (1958–2009), an unparalleled charity fashion show event that redefined the concepts of beauty, style, and empowerment for African Americans.

A spectacle of glamour and performance, the traveling fashion show grew out of the pages of *Ebony* magazine (first published in 1945). Similar to the publication, the fashion event provided transformative images of African Americans as beautiful and successful. Far more than a display of fabulous clothes, the show offered black women a vision of what they could wear and, ultimately, who they could be.

Featuring 40 stunning ensembles (gowns, coats, suits), the exhibition includes works by designers such as Pierre Cardin, Christian Dior, Givenchy, Christian Lacroix, Yves Saint Laurent, Bob Mackie, Alexander McQueen, b. Michael, Missoni, and Vivienne Westwood. Inside the galleries, visitors will be able to interact with local fashion designers creating garments live alongside the exhibition ensembles, and use a “virtual fitting room” to digitally try on fashions from the exhibition.

Threads of Africa: A Celebration of Art, Nature, and People
September 23, 2017, Noon–5 pm
East Building and Museum Park
Free



Celebrate the newly reinstated African art gallery with a daylong celebration of African art, nature, music, and culture. The Museum Park comes alive with music and dance performances, drum-making workshops, collaborative community art activities, food, African cultural activities, and more. Walk the new gallery and experience conversations with experts and storytellers, and participate in a collaborative art project with artist Maya Freelon Asante. The day concludes with a free concert by world-renowned West African artist Angélique Kidjo.



Angélique Kidjo with Diali Cissokho and Kaira Ba
September 23, 2017, 6:45 pm (doors open at 5:30 pm)
Joseph M. Bryan, Jr., Theater in the Museum Park
Free; ticket required

To conclude the Threads of Africa celebration and the 20th anniversary summer concert series, the NCMA presents a free concert by Angélique Kidjo, hailed by *Time* magazine as “Africa’s premier diva.” Kidjo blends the West African traditions of her childhood in Benin with elements of American R&B, funk, and jazz, as well as influences from Europe and Latin America. A three-time Grammy winner, Kidjo is admired throughout the world.

Opening for Angélique Kidjo is Diali Cissokho, a griot born to a family of professional musicians in Senegal, who currently makes his home in North Carolina. Cissokho is a master of the kora, a traditional West African instrument with strings and a skin-and-gourd resonator. Cissokho and his band Kaira Ba have created an electrifying style of West African dance music that has attracted a fervent following.

OTHER EXHIBITIONS

Andrea Donnelly: We've Met Before
August 26, 2017–January 28, 2018
East Building, Level B
Free

North Carolina–raised artist Andrea Donnelly explores the dynamic between the formulaic methods of handwoven cloth and the impulsiveness of ink in the creation of her larger-than-life textiles, featuring images of the human body, blots, and delicate floral abstractions. Her art furnishes both mental and physical spaces by creating an intimate, tactile relationship between the viewer and cloth. She employs photography to create the silhouettes within her work, giving her art a precision that reiterates the meticulous process of hand weaving fiber.

Calling her work “a literal record of its making,” Donnelly uses textiles to replicate the process of creating a mirror image on paper with ink through dyeing, weaving, unweaving, and weaving again. “Through passage of time and rhythm of repetition,” she notes, “the actions of weaving are captured and layered like memory in the buildup of thread upon thread. As I weave, I submerge image within its structure. The density and transparency of that structure give form to both image and atmosphere. The cloth I create is a mental landscape, quietly inhabited.”

A Kiss of the Earth by Sabine Gruffat
August 26, 2017–January 28, 2018
East Building, Video Gallery
Free

A Kiss of the Earth is an interactive computer-animated video and sound installation inspired by Sergei Diaghilev’s revolutionary 1913 Ballets Russes production of *The Rite of Spring*, scored by Igor Stravinsky. It is the story of a pagan tribe calling on its deities to restore the earth, a drama that ends with a sacrificial maiden’s dancing herself to death. This installation refers to a contemporary reconstruction of *The Rite of Spring*, with decor and costumes by Kenneth Archer (after Nicholas Roerich) and choreography by Millicent Hodson (after Vaslav Nijinsky).

This project attempts to use digital technologies with the same spirit of innovation that marked the first performance of *The Rite of Spring*. In this way the Internet and wireless network re-envision how the work may be staged, exhibited, and received, while drawing from the same iconoclastic and riotous energy of the original performance. We live in a world where most violence and oppression occur anonymously, with high-tech vision machines that can kill across great distances, but we are disembodied from our experience of death. In this way *A Kiss of the Earth* reflects a contemporary tragedy.

Donald Sultan: The Disaster Paintings
September 23, 2017–December 31, 2017
East Building, Joyce W. Pope Gallery
Free

Donald Sultan’s Disaster Paintings are among the artist’s most important and iconic works. Each of these 11 paintings, created between 1984 and 1990, is an imposing, industrial-like structure, reinforced by Sultan’s preferred media of Masonite tiles and tar. The resilience of his materials contrasts with his subject matter: fires, floods, and industrial catastrophes, which provoke feelings of fear, instability, and frailty. These large-scale paintings, most of which measure eight feet square, are heavy and dense, bringing a serious permanence to calamities that are often over in a flash. Sultan’s images force us to confront the realities of contemporary life and dare us to remember the long-term effects of each accident or reaction.

Night(Light)**September 30, 2017–January 28, 2018****East Building, Level B, Allen G. Thomas Jr. Photography Gallery****Free**

Night(Light) explores light as it interacts with darkness in photography. In its purest form, photography harnesses light. The images give shape to light, immortalizing and suspending it. The eerie feeling of night is not lost in these photographs from the Museum's permanent collection. Under the cover of darkness, some photographs reveal nighttime mischief and behavior. Others convey the loneliness of night and the lurking desolation in each empty street and unlit hallway. Together, these images of night and light delve into photography's formal properties and capture the darkest, most enigmatic time of day.

Rhythmic Vitality: Photographs by Barbara Morgan**September 30, 2017–January 28, 2018****East Building, Level B, Julian T. Baker Jr. Photography Gallery****Free**

This exhibition features photographs by Barbara Morgan (American, 1900–92) from the NCMA's permanent collection. Although Morgan, one of the founders of the photography magazine *Aperture*, is best known for her studies of modern dance, she also created photomontages and light drawings. Morgan said: "Whether my work is large or small, abstract or realistic, the one thing that must be present is rhythmic vitality ... it doesn't matter if it is dance or montage or people or nature. There always has to be the presence of energy."

Upcoming exhibitions are also on the NCMA's website [here](#).