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Parking Deck 'Art Gallery' Opens October 19 at North Hills

Installation transforms parking deck with 44 colorful works of original art by Triangle teens, inspired by works in North Carolina Museum of Art permanent collection

Raleigh, N.C.—A parking deck at North Hills will receive a colorful update as it transforms into an art gallery. Beginning Wednesday, October 18, the space will host a new art installation titled *Teens, Inspired*, featuring 44 original works of art by 27 local teenagers, adding color and intrigue to the highly trafficked area. The works are part of an annual juried exhibition at the North Carolina Museum of Art in which teens create works of art inspired by art in the Museum's galleries. There will be an opening reception Wednesday, October 18, from 5:30 to 7 pm on the second level of the Parking Deck Art Gallery, near the Target and JC Penney shopping areas. The artwork will remain up indefinitely.

"Being a part of the gallery means that there are people who acknowledge my creativity, passion, and dedication to my artwork," said Ceren Onasci, a freshman at UNC-Chapel Hill who has a watercolor piece and a work of acrylic on canvas in the exhibition, both created while she was a senior at Millbrook High School in Raleigh.

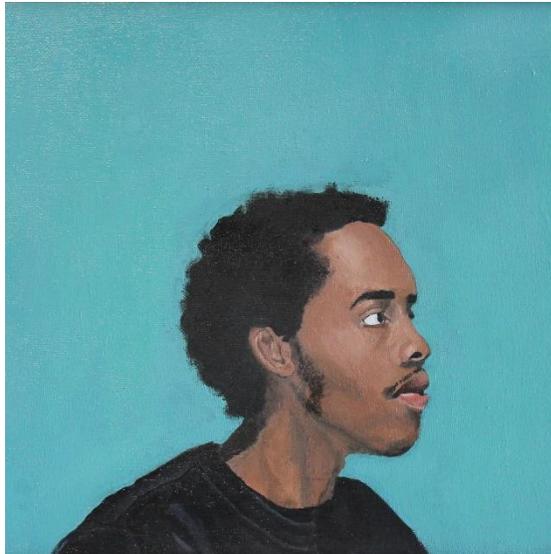
Savannah Allred, a freshman at Wake Technical Community College who completed her pieces while at Raleigh's Athens Drive High School and featured at right, says, "I feel so fortunate to be a teenager with the opportunity to have my work displayed in a gallery. I think it is so important that young artists have a platform and are represented in the community."



Including watercolor, collage, oil pastels, and more, the works of art have been printed on durable vinyl and enlarged, ensuring the details are visible while protecting the original work from the elements. The works were created by students in all levels of art and often center on the themes of identity and current events.

"This installation features a group of highly creative and ambitious North Carolina teens," said Rebecca Planchart, primary installation curator and NCMA teen programming assistant. Harriet Hoover, NCMA coordinator of studio, teen, and college programs, agreed. "We are thrilled that artists represented in the Museum's annual *Teens, Inspired* exhibition will have the opportunity to show their work to new audiences through this off-campus installation. The program is a wonderful opportunity for students to dive into the NCMA's permanent collection and create work that reflects their own beliefs and interests, and now North Hills visitors can enjoy the artists' creativity."

(continued)



The gallery opening honors the student artists and provides time for artists, press, and guests to navigate the parking deck to view the work. Plan to park in the Target lot and take the escalator up to P2. The opening will take place in a delineated space to the left of the escalator, overlooking the Target parking lot.

“Our city greatly benefits from the North Carolina Museum of Art’s statewide teen art program, and we are grateful for the opportunity to support it while advancing Raleigh’s promise to further public art throughout the community,” says Bonner Gaylord, managing director of operations at North Hills.

“Complete with guided walking tour maps, gallery cards, and proper lighting, North Hills proudly boasts what very well may be the first art gallery in a public parking deck!”

Teens, Inspired is just one of the engaging programs the NCMA offers for young artists. Emerging artists can

also explore the Museum through teen studio workshops, artist talks, and teen-led events to learn, create, and connect with one another. Learn more about upcoming events, the *Teens, Inspired* program and exhibition, and other teen programs [here](#).

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Photos, top to bottom

Artist Savannah Allred with her work *To Prevail*, featured in the *Teens, Inspired* installation.

Earl by Kayla Stevens, featured in the *Teens, Inspired* installation.

About the North Carolina Museum of Art

The North Carolina Museum of Art’s permanent collection spans more than 5,000 years, from ancient Egypt to the present, making the institution one of the premier art museums in the South. The Museum’s collection provides educational, aesthetic, intellectual, and cultural experiences for the citizens of North Carolina and beyond. The 164-acre Museum Park showcases the connection between art and nature through site-specific works of environmental art. The Museum offers changing national touring exhibitions, classes, lectures, family activities, films, and concerts.

The Museum opened West Building, home to the permanent collection, in 2010. The North Carolina Museum of Art, Lawrence J. Wheeler, director, is located at 2110 Blue Ridge Road in Raleigh. It is the art museum of the State of North Carolina, Roy Cooper, governor, and an agency of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Susi Hamilton, secretary.

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ABOUT NORTH HILLS

Live, work, shop, dine, and play at North Hills. This innovative, multi-faceted district offers many options to live and stay a while—with four-star hotel rooms, The Dartmouth Apartments, Park Central Apartments, Park and Market Apartments, Midtown Green Apartments, and The Alexan. Parks and gathering spaces offer plenty of fresh air, while conveniences such as dry cleaning, banks, and a pharmacy are just a leisurely stroll away. Quality-of-life amenities are also at your fingertips, such as spas, salons, entertainment venues, such as a 14-screen cinema, Kings Bowl, World of Beer, and the new Midtown Park are right next door. Premier dining establishments, high-end boutiques, department stores, and cafés are all a few steps in any direction. For more information please visit VisitNorthHills.com.