

NEWS RELEASE

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N.C. Museum of Art Opens Exhibition of Work by North Carolina Female Artists

Mirror Image explores what it means to be a woman in today's culture

RALEIGH, N.C.—*Mirror Image: Women Portraying Women* presents compelling images of women, from youth to old age, as seen through the distinct perspectives of 13 North Carolina female artists. Opening May 1, 2011, *Mirror Image* is the second exhibition presented in the Museum's North Carolina Gallery in East Building, following *Bob Trotman: Inverted Utopias*.



Margaret Sartor, *Morgan in the Driveway, Monroe, Louisiana*, 1993, printed 2005, North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, © 2005 Margaret Sartor

Featuring 27 works of art from the 1970s to the present, *Mirror Image* is an intimate reflection of feminine experience, played out in painting, photography, and sculpture. Each work of art is a deeply personal representation of femininity and the influences and experiences that shape the female identity.

"Though many works in the Museum's collection feature images of women, a small fraction of the art was created by female artists," said Jennifer Dasal, exhibition curator. "*Mirror Image* combines these two elements into a unique exhibition that features many rarely seen works from our own collection alongside loans from many of the best female artists in North Carolina."

Mirror Image encompasses a wide range of work by female artists, from photographic depictions of women at work and introspective portraits of family members to mixed-media installations that reference cultural identification. While the artists in the show touch on an array of subjects across a variety of media, visitors will discover that many of their works explore similar themes, such as family, tradition, identity, and the female condition.

"The provocative images in *Mirror Image*—some inspiring, others disconcerting—prompt us to explore our own ideas of what it means to be a woman. The exhibition has powerful cultural and psychological implications," said Dasal.

Family is a frequent theme for artists Margaret Sartor and Mary Shannon Johnstone, who often turn their lens toward close family members. Photographs by Margaret Sartor are filled with images of her young daughter and nieces, which allow the artist to reflect on her own childhood. Like Sartor, Mary Shannon Johnstone's photographs are also a deeply personal reflection of her family. In her *Silent Home: Bruised Mornings*, a portrayal of the painful emotions evoked by strained relationships, Johnston records what she calls "a history some would rather forget."

Artists Cristina Córdova, Stacy Lynn Waddell, and Roxana Pérez-Méndez each grapple with issues of cultural identification and its complicated history. In *The Amazing Adventures of Tar Baby Mama*, Stacy Lynn Waddell uses the burning and branding of paper and canvas to depict transparent and ghostly figures. The image of Tar Baby Mama marked with ephemera of the African American tradition illustrates Waddell's own conflicting emotions regarding history, family background, and self-identification.

Other important issues such as work, interior lives, communication and aging are explored in the work of Susan Harbage Page, elin o'Hara slavick, Emily Scott Beck, and Caroline Vaughan. Emily Scott Beck's video *Churn*, for instance asks a series of women to speak their minds to a camera while their heads are submerged in water. Voices garbled and unintelligible, the women release complaints, opinions, and secrets without fear that they'll be judged or scorned. The water inhibits and at the same unburdens them.

With its focus on the exploration of the female identity, *Mirror Image* is a fitting counterpart to *30 Americans*, the Museum's concurrent special exhibition of work by contemporary African American artists, many of whom also address issues of identity in their diverse body of work.

Mirror Image comprises works from NCMA's permanent collection as well as loans from local private collections and the artists' personal collections.

Artists from the NCMA's collection include Margaret Sartor (Durham), Maud Gatewood (Yanceyville), elin o'Hara slavick (Chapel Hill), and Caroline Vaughan (Durham).

The exhibition also features work by Stacy Lynn Waddell (Chapel Hill), Rebecca Fagg (Greensboro), Katie Claiborne (Greensboro), Emily Scott Beck (Durham), Linda Foard Roberts (Waxhaw), Mary Shannon Johnstone (Cary), Roxana Pérez-Méndez (Chapel Hill), Cristina Córdova (Penland), and Susan Harbage Page (Chapel Hill).

Mirror Image was organized by the North Carolina Museum of Art. This exhibition is made possible, in part, by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources; the North Carolina Museum of Art Foundation, Inc.; and the William R. Kenan Jr. Endowment for Educational Exhibitions.

Visitor Information

Dates

May 1–November 27, 2011

Location

North Carolina Gallery, East Building

Hours

Mirror Image will be open during regular Museum hours:

Tuesday–Thursday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Friday 10 a.m.–9 p.m.

Saturday–Sunday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Admission

Admission to the exhibition is free.



elin o'Hara slavick, *Shedelia Woddard, Mary Lane, Flo Ferrell, Glendia Ratcliff, Cooks, Epic Buffet, Hollywood Casino, Shreveport, LA, 2001*, North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, © 2006 elin o'Hara slavick

Related Events

Exhibition Gallery Talk: *Mirror Image: Women Portraying Women*

Thursdays, May 12, May 26

Saturdays, May 14, May 28

2:30 p.m.

Free

Join a Museum docent for an informal half-hour discussion in one of the special exhibitions. Reservations required; call (919) 664-6785 one week in advance.

Meet the Artists

Friday, June 24, 7 p.m.

Free

Jennifer Dasal, curator of *Mirror Image*, and artists featured in the show chat about works in the exhibition, after which the group moves into the galleries for further discussion.

Lunch and Learn

Friday, August 12, 11 a.m.

\$20 Members

\$25 Nonmembers

Curator Jennifer Dasal examines what it means to be a woman in today's culture, as seen through the eyes of North Carolina artists from the 1970s through the present.

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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 Southeast. 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 recently opened its new gallery building, home to the permanent collection. 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, Beverly Eaves Perdue, governor, and an agency of the Department of Cultural Resources, Linda A. Carlisle, secretary. Admission to the Museum's permanent collection and Museum Park is free. Museum hours are Tuesday–Thursday and Saturday–Sunday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.–9 p.m.; Closed Monday. For more information about the Museum, visit www.ncartmuseum.org.