



North Carolina Museum of Art

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Outdoor Installations by New York–Based Artist Heather Hart and North Carolina Artist Daniel Johnston Coming to the North Carolina Museum of Art**

*Free community party May 4 celebrates new works of art in the Museum Park*

**Raleigh, N.C.**—The North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA) celebrates the opening of Heather Hart’s temporary, interactive installation *Southern Oracle: We Will Tear the Roof Off* and a new, permanent commissioned sculpture by Daniel Johnston with an outdoor “Hoopla” party Saturday, May 4, in the Ann and Jim Goodnight Museum Park, featuring music, food, art making, and more.



Hart’s *Southern Oracle*, similar to the one pictured here, is a partially submerged rooftop sculpture with just the roofline peeking out of the ground. It is inspired by her family history in North Carolina and the album *Mothership Connection* by Parliament-Funkadelic, the project of renowned singer, songwriter, producer, and North Carolina native George Clinton. Visitors can climb on top of the work and venture inside, surrounding themselves with music from their own phones that they can play through speakers. In addition to the May 4 opening event, several other community gatherings, to be announced, will take place at the

rooftop. The installation is on the hill near Ledelle Moe’s *Collapse I* (2000) sculpture.

“Having admired Heather’s work for some time, I’m thrilled to collaborate with her to bring a new iteration of her insightful *Oracular Rooftop* series to North Carolina,” said NCMA guest curator Teka Selman. “It’s fitting that a work that strives to facilitate communication and community interaction will be on view at the Museum Park, which is dedicated to providing a welcoming and inspiring artistic space. It will be wonderful to see how visitors engage with the sculpture and, in sharing their own stories, find connections with each other.”

Artist Heather Hart said: “For the *Southern Oracle*, I want to go back to the inception for the series and think about the lyric it was named for, ‘We Will Tear the Roof off the Mother,’ from the Parliament album *Mothership Connection* in my mother’s collection. George Clinton, of Parliament, is from

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Kannapolis, N.C., and I was looking for the intersection of this with my fascination with threshold spaces and with the site itself. I was ultimately inspired by the idea that the NCMA is North Carolina’s museum, spanning what I see as the most diverse state in the U.S.”

Seagrove, N.C.–based artist Daniel Johnston’s untitled installation features 178 hand-built, wood-fired ceramic pillars, varying in height from several inches to over 6 feet, made from Piedmont clay. Installed in a straight line that plays against the rolling landscape of the Museum Park and designed specifically for this site, this sculptural installation brings to the forefront ideas of walls, borders, and boundaries, and how one moves through the world, literally and metaphorically. The work is in the Park’s meadow near Mark di Suvero’s *No Fuss*.

“I’m a product of the NCMA and seeing the work there. That my first permanent installation, and the largest, is at the NCMA is a profound moment in my career,” said artist Daniel Johnston. “It’s an honor to work with the iconic North Carolina red clay and install this site-specific work.”

Chief Curator and Curator of Contemporary Art Linda Dougherty said, “Pushing the conventional boundaries of craft and pottery, Johnston’s first

monumental, outdoor museum commission transforms familiar forms into unexpected and awe-inspiring experiences for the viewer.”



Both projects are scheduled for completion on May 1.

## **Related Events**

### **[Duke Energy Hoopla Hyperspace Party in the Park](#)**

Saturday, May 4, 6 pm  
Free, ticket required

May the Fourth be with you! Celebrate the opening of our Museum Park season, new art installations, and Star Wars Day all in one big outdoor party. Through 8:30 pm, enjoy art making, laser tag, Jedi training, game truck, music, and food and drinks. Stargazing with Raleigh Astronomy Club starts at 8:30 pm. Costumes encouraged; fun for all ages.

### **[Architecture Panel Discussion: “The Audacity of Space”](#)**

Friday, May 10, 6:30 pm  
Free, ticket required

Artist Heather Hart joins a panel of North Carolina–based architects for a discussion related to Hart’s *Southern Oracle: We Will Tear the Roof Off*. Wine and cheese reception 6:30–7 pm; lecture starts at 7.

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### **About the Installations and Events**

#### **Heather Hart, *Southern Oracle: We Will Tear the Roof Off***

Guest curated by Teka Selman, an independent curator based in Durham, N.C.

Generously supported by the Hartfield Foundation and Libby and Lee Buck.

Additional Support for the Duke Energy Hoopla Hyperspace Party in the Park and Architecture Panel Discussion: “The Audacity of Space” provided by the Hartfield Foundation and Libby and Lee Buck.

#### **Daniel Johnston untitled sculpture**

This project is generously supported by Pat and Tom Gipson.

### **Image Captions (top to bottom)**

Heather Hart, *The Oracle of Lacuna*, 2017, Storm King Art Center, New York

Daniel Johnston, *Untitled*, 2018, wood-fired clay, variable dimensions, Courtesy of the artist

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### **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 Ann and Jim Goodnight 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, Valerie Hillings, 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.