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MEDIA CONTACT
Emily Kowalski | (919) 664-6795 | ekowalski@ncartmuseum.org

North Carolina Museum of Art Hosts Blended Learning Pilot Project and Artist Residency

Raleigh, N.C.—On February 10, 2014, the North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA) began hosting a three-week blended learning pilot project for two high school art classes from Hickory and Jacksonville, N.C. Blended learning, a growing trend in education, combines online and face-to-face instruction. Students will communicate online with peers from across the state and then collaborate with each other at the NCMA during an artist residency. During this residency project, students will use photography to identify and examine the idea of leadership.



“Through blended learning, students will communicate with each other online and use Web-based resources to foster engagement and curiosity before they ever arrive at the Museum,” explains Emily Kotecki, associate coordinator of teen and college programs at the NCMA and project manager for this pilot. “The students will then apply what they learn during an artist residency at the Museum. We hope that the combination of online discussions, informative videos, and hands-on learning, both in the classroom and at the Museum, will deepen and individualize student learning.”

During the first two weeks, participating students will carefully examine works created by North Carolina photographers who use portraiture to communicate a message about a person or philosophy. At the end of the second week, on February 20, students and teachers from both classes will participate in an all-day artist residency at the NCMA; Taj Forer, Titus Brooks Heagins, and Bill Bamberger—three of the photographers the students are studying online—will work in small groups with the students and teachers.

For the final project, students will create a photographic portrait of a leader in their school communities. Their work will be inspired by the artist residency, online experiences, and in-class activities. Students will also write an artist statement to accompany their work. Their final images and artist statements will be printed on vinyl banners and strung together into a collaborative work. This art installation will travel to the two participating high schools and will also be displayed at statewide teacher expos and at the Museum’s annual teen event in April.

Michelle Harrell, coordinator of teen and college programs, explains, “The goal of this blended learning project is to use the lessons learned from our previous onsite programs for teens, and from our online courses, to create powerful and personalized learning experiences before, during, and after their Museum visit.” Harrell and Kotecki hope that this experience will serve as a model for future blended learning programs.

Photo caption

Taj Forer, *The Barefoot Farmer, Red Boiling Springs, Tennessee*, 2006, chromogenic print, 29 1/2 x 29 1/2 in., Purchased with funds from the William R. Roberson Jr. and Frances M. Roberson Endowed Fund for North Carolina Art

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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 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, Pat McCrory, governor, and an agency of the Department of Cultural Resources, Susan Kluttz, secretary.