Golden Mummies of Egypt
March 6–July 11, 2021
East Building, Meymandi Exhibition Gallery

Golden Mummies of Egypt explores beliefs about the afterlife during the relatively little-known era when Egypt was part of the Greek and Roman worlds (circa 300 B.C.E.–200 C.E.). In a series of lavishly illustrated thematic sections, it showcases the outstanding collections of the Manchester Museum to allow visitors to examine life for the wealthy in multicultural Roman Egypt, where diverse Egyptian, Roman, and Greek communities and cultural influences were blended.

Excavated from Hawara, Egypt, south of modern-day Cairo, the mummies and related objects offer glimpses into where the people lived, what they believed, and their unique blend of cultural traditions during this time. The exhibition sends visitors on a journey exploring seven key themes: life in a multicultural society, ideas about the afterlife, becoming a god, the art of identity, meeting the gods, preserving the body, and the mummies’ modern discovery.

Golden Mummies of Egypt is developed and produced by Nomad Exhibitions and is made possible, in part, by the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources; the North Carolina Museum of Art Foundation, Inc.; and the William R. Kenan Jr. Endowment for Educational Exhibitions.
**Moataz Nasr: Delicate Balance**  
March 6–July 25, 2021  
East Building, Galleries 3 and 4

Acclaimed pan-Arab artist and activist Moataz Nasr (born 1961, Alexandria, Egypt; lives and works in Cairo) creates works of art that offer a contemporary look at Egyptian society and explores often-exoticized and romanticized perceptions of the country. Via paintings, sculptures, videos, and installations, Nasr addresses current sociopolitical norms, and problems, in Northern Africa.

In this installation two videos explore alternating concepts from Nasr’s home country. The Mountain (2017) is a cinematic narrative about a young woman’s clash between her modern life and her village’s conventional expectations. This work was presented by Egypt in its national pavilion at the 2017 Venice Biennale (one among ninety national pavilions in this world-famous biennial exhibition). Merge and Emerge (2011) is a meditative, hypnotic presentation by three Sufi dancers, inviting us to experience ecstatic prayerfulness. In each video Nasr highlights traditions and values often associated with Egypt and other Middle Eastern/North African nations—especially female submissiveness and mystical beliefs. Nasr invites contemplation of the delicate balance between past and present, tradition and innovation.

*Moataz Nasr: Delicate Balance* is organized by the North Carolina Museum of Art. Generously supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. This exhibition is made possible, in part, by the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources; the North Carolina Museum of Art Foundation, Inc.; and the William R. Kenan Jr. Endowment for Educational Exhibitions. Research for this exhibition was made possible by Ann and Jim Goodnight/The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fund for Curatorial and Conservation Research and Travel.

**To Be Young: Coming of Age in the Contemporary**  
April 3, 2021–2022  
East Building, Contemporary Galleries 3

Where does childhood end and adulthood begin? Using both figurative and abstract images from the Museum collection, *To Be Young: Coming of Age in the Contemporary* offers Museum visitors an introspective overview of coming of age across various communities throughout the 20th and 21st centuries. The exhibition explores how youth process development through concepts such as identity, community, and kinship to form new perspectives on the world.

Although *To Be Young* primarily focuses on individual narratives, it also challenges how society defines maturity as a collective. Each generation of people reconstructs the rites
of passage that determine the progression from childhood to adulthood. Therefore, the 
exhibition questions how traditional rites and rituals that constitute coming of age will 
change due to the current social climate stimulated by an ongoing racial justice movement 
and public health crisis.

Images (top to bottom):
Egyptian, from Hawara, Mummy of a woman called Isaious, 1st century C.E., human 
remains, linen, plaster, and gold leaf, Manchester Museum, © 2019 Manchester 
Museum/Michael Pollard Photographer

Moataz Nasr, Still from the video The Mountain, 2017, video: 12 min., Courtesy the 
artist and Galleria Continua

Primrose McPherson Paschal, Beulah’s Baby, 1948, oil on canvas. 30 x 25 in., Purchased 
with funds from the North Carolina State Art Society (Robert F. Phifer Bequest)

# # #

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, 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 under the direction of secretary D. Reid Wilson.