



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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North Carolina Museum of Art Presents *Sacred Motherhood: Mother-and-Child Representations from the Permanent Collection*

Exhibition displays representations of motherhood across time and medium

Raleigh, N.C.—Beginning May 4, 2014, the North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA) presents *Sacred Motherhood: Mother-and-Child Representations from the Permanent Collection*, a free exhibition featuring works from ancient Egypt to the 21st century. The exhibition includes artifacts, paintings, sculpture, ceramics, photographs, and lithographs that depict mother and child. The 13 works in the exhibition examine multiple facets of motherhood—from pregnancy to the pain of separation at death.



Sacred Motherhood offers historical and cultural context to older works of art and addresses how artists today are inspired to portray the subject of motherhood. Caroline M. Rocheleau, the NCMA’s curator of ancient art and *Sacred Motherhood* curator, says context is important to our understanding of the works in the exhibition: “In order to figure out what a particular presentation of mother and child means, we must look beyond the image of the woman and the child. We must determine when and where the work was created, who created it, and how he or she created it.” Extended labels that provide this context accompany each work.

Regarding the title of the exhibition, Rocheleau explains, “*Sacred Motherhood* is not about sacred mothers; instead, it stresses the fact that motherhood is worthy of reverence in and of itself.”

Sacred Motherhood opens the week before Mother’s Day—just in time for families to celebrate the holiday at the Museum. The NCMA invites mothers and their children to visit the exhibition and continue exploring the theme of motherhood in the permanent collection galleries of the Museum’s West Building.

Sacred Motherhood and Mother’s Day Related Events

Lunch and Lecture: *Sacred Motherhood*
Friday, May 9, 11 am
East Building, Museum Auditorium
\$25 Members; \$30 Nonmembers

Join exhibition curator Caroline Rocheleau as she brings context and meaning to the 13 beautiful mother-and-child representations in this thematic exhibition from our permanent collection.

The seminar continues with discussion over a catered lunch. Register [online](#) or call the Museum Box Office, (919) 715-5923. Registration and payment for the combined program required by 4 pm on the Tuesday before the event.

Mother’s Day Brunch at Iris
Sunday, May 11
Reservations from 10:30 am

Treat your mom to a relaxing brunch at the Museum restaurant. Brunch is expected to sell out, and reservations are strongly encouraged. Call (919) 664-6838 to reserve a table.

Sacred Motherhood: Mother-and-Child Representations from the Permanent Collection
May 4–December 7, 2014
East Building, Level B

(continued)

Free

Museum Hours

Tuesday–Thursday 10 am–5 pm

Friday 10 am–9 pm

Saturday–Sunday 10 am–5 pm

Closed Monday

About the Exhibition

The exhibition is 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.

Photo Caption

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

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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.