



North Carolina Museum of Art

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North Carolina Museum of Art to Open Two Free Special Exhibitions in September

Artists, including local creators, explore connections to Museum collection and traditional art making

Raleigh, N.C.—In September the North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA) will open two special exhibitions, free to visit. Featuring artists from around the state and around the world, the fall exhibitions explore themes related to the expansion of traditional museum collections and art making. These exhibitions preface the highly anticipated, ticketed special exhibition [Alphonse Mucha: Art Nouveau Visionary](#), opening October 23.

"*NC Artists Connections* shows how deep the talent runs in our community, while *Break the Mold* presents fascinating new takes on traditional art making," said Valerie Hillings, Museum director. "Presented together, these exhibitions invite reflection and conversations around museums, community, and traditions."



[NC Artist Connections: The Beautiful Project, Stephen Hayes, and Hông-Ân Trương](#) opens Saturday, September 4. For decades the NCMA has provided art education, inspiration, and free access to its People's Collection to generations of North Carolinians. For artists the Museum has been a particularly special place as a space for study and experimentation and a guide for burgeoning careers. In this exhibition, on view through February 13, 2022, the NCMA highlights three artists who present new and reconceived works of art with themes that link to important works in the Museum collection. In connecting the NCMA to local contemporary artists, the exhibition helps visitors experience the NCMA's collection in new

ways while gaining a deeper understanding of the artists' ongoing relationships to these works, as well as how the work of other artists relates to their practice.



[Break the Mold: New Takes on Traditional Art Making](#) opens Saturday, September 25, and showcases contemporary artists who use traditional modes of art making and crafting to tackle timely subject matter. Innovative takes on embroidery, ceramics, quilting, furniture, interior design, and fashion accessories serve to explore diverse topics such as gender assumptions and inequalities, prison reform, racial justice, memory, and loss, as well as how objects transmit and

transform social and cultural history. This show features 25 contemporary artists, including Sanford Biggers, Elizabeth Brim, Maria Britton, Julie Cockburn, Rodney McMillan, Rachel Meginnes, Katy Mixon, Gabriel de la Mora, Yasumasa Morimura, Thomas Schmidt, Shinique Smith, and Do Ho Suh, whose artworks are displayed alongside some of their historical predecessors.

Image Captions (top to bottom, left to right):

Winnie Okwakol, *Self-Portrait*, 2021, from *Memory is Ritual: A Remembrance of Ourselves* by The Beautiful Project, digital print, 24 × 36 in., Courtesy of Winnie Okwakol

Hồng-Ân Trương, detail from *We are Beside Ourselves*, 2018, installation including carbon single transfer prints on mirror, archival pigment print on Phototex, lithographs, and sound, dimensions variable, Courtesy of the artist

Stephen Hayes, *5 lbs.* (detail), 2020–21, Hydro-Stone, resin, brass, and plastic, dimensions variable, Courtesy of the artist

Elizabeth Alexander, *The Great Enemy of Truth*, 2019, hand-cut set of Confederate commemorative porcelain plates, paper packaging, glass, wood, and brass wall mounts, full set: H. 60 × W. 260 × D. 5 in., Courtesy of Hodges Taylor and the artist

About the Exhibitions:

Break the Mold was conceived in collaboration with the Mint Museum in Charlotte, which provided critical loans and curatorial support. It is organized by the North Carolina Museum of Art. 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.

NC Artist Connections is organized by the North Carolina Museum of Art and is 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.

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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 antiquity 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 special exhibitions, classes, lectures, family activities, films, and concerts.

The Museum, located at 2110 Blue Ridge Road in Raleigh, opened West Building, home to the permanent collection, in 2010. It is the art museum of the State of North Carolina, Roy Cooper, governor; an agency of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources under the direction of Secretary D. Reid Wilson; and led by Director Valerie Hillings.