



North Carolina Museum of Art

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 31, 2024

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**The North Carolina Museum of Art Announces Spring 2024 Exhibition Schedule,
Featuring *To Take Shape and Meaning: Form and Design in
Contemporary American Indian Art***

Raleigh, NC — The North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA) is pleased to share its upcoming spring season, on view from February through July 2024 and featuring the Museum's first major exhibition of contemporary Indigenous art. The exhibitions invite audiences to consider multilayered storytelling and contemporary materials spanning three centuries of American art history.

To Take Shape and Meaning: Form and Design in Contemporary American Indian Art will celebrate its opening on March 2 with the NCMA's second annual NC Indigenous Artist Festival. On February 15 and February 17, the Museum debuts its first multilocation exhibition at SECCA (NCMA, Winston-Salem) and the NCMA, respectively, with *From Alpha to Creation: Religion in the Deep South*. Finally, *Layered Legacies: Quilts from the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts at Old Salem*, opening March 9 in Raleigh, will include a community quilting room.



**[To Take Shape and Meaning: Form and Design in Contemporary
American Indian Art](#)**

March 2–July 28, 2024

NCMA, East Building, Level B, Meymandi Exhibition Gallery

Free for Members, \$20 Adults, \$17 Seniors age 65 and older, \$14

**Youth ages 7–18, Free for children 6 and under and college
students**

Organized by guest curator Nancy Strickland Fields (Lumbee), director and curator of the Museum of the Southeast American Indian at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, *To Take Shape and Meaning: Form and Design in Contemporary American Indian Art* will be on view at the NCMA from March 2 to July 28, 2024. Featuring works by 75 Indigenous artists from over 50 tribes

across the United States and Canada, this exhibition is a testament to the enduring elements of form

and design in American Indian art. In an exhibition composed exclusively of 3-D artworks, each piece reflects both traditional American Indian craftsmanship and contemporary culture. The show includes baskets made out of blown glass, cars transformed into works of art, and cutting-edge fashion ensembles embellished with goose feathers and turkey quills, which reveal transitions of place, experiments in materiality, and meanings blended from present-day and traditional beliefs. Curator Fields states, "For thousands of years, Native artists have manipulated their materials into fantastic expressions of art. The contemporary artists featured in the show are among the most acclaimed in their genres and are credited with pushing their art forms in ways that retain meaning and continue to evolve culture." *To Take Shape and Meaning* will be accompanied by an NCMA–published exhibition catalogue with essays by Fields, artist Rose B. Simpson (Santa Clara Pueblo), and Stephen Fadden (Mohawk), director of programming at Poeh Cultural Center in Pojoaque, New Mexico.

On Saturday, March 2, the Museum will celebrate the opening of *To Take Shape and Meaning* with the [NC Indigenous Artist Festival](#) and free admission to the exhibition. Community Days will occur on Saturday, April 20; Sunday, May 19; Sunday, June 16; and Sunday, July 21, from 10 am to 5 pm. Exhibition programming details include:

Artist Panel: Indigenous Understanding of Shape and Meaning in American Indian Art

Friday, March 1, noon–1 pm

Free with registration

Join us for a discussion moderated by guest curator Nancy Strickland Fields (Lumbee) with renowned artists Kenneth Johnson (Muscogee/Seminole), Virgil Ortiz (Cochiti Pueblo), and Margaret Roach Wheeler (Chickasaw/Choctaw).

NC Indigenous Artist Festival

Saturday, March 2, 10 am–4 pm

Free, including free admission to *To Take Shape and Meaning*

Celebrate Indigenous arts and culture from across the state of North Carolina, meet artists and buy traditional crafts and contemporary jewelry, and drop in for free workshops and a performance by Lumbee culture dancers.

Meet the Curator: Nancy Strickland Fields

Free on Community Days: Saturday, March 2, April 20, 1–2 pm

Free with ticket to the exhibition (must register): Saturday, May 18, June 8, 1–2 pm

Meet Nancy Strickland Fields, director/curator of the Museum of the Southeast American Indian and guest curator of this celebration of contemporary Indigenous art, who leads a tour of *To Take Shape and Meaning*.

For a full list of artists, information on media preview day, and/or interview requests, please contact the NCMA. To Take Shape and Meaning press images available [here](#) (password: cyclic-partition-starboard).



[**Layered Legacies: Quilts from the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts at Old Salem**](#)

March 9–July 21, 2024

NCMA, East Building, Level B, Joyce W. Pope Gallery

Free

Layered Legacies invites audiences to consider the multilayered stories stitched into quilts made in the American South between the late eighteenth and mid-nineteenth centuries. Featured are more than 30 bed coverings and related objects from the collection of the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts and Old Salem collections. These bed coverings are expressions of love, objects of exquisite craftsmanship, and material documents containing hidden stories of long-forgotten women, both white and Black, wealthy and enslaved, whose hands created and cared for these important textiles. On weekends the NCMA will host a *Layered Legacies* community threads maker space, inviting visitors to create, design, and hang quilt squares of their own alongside local artists Aliyah Bonnette, Michelle Wilkie, and Patrizia Ferreira.

Layered Legacies press images available [here](#) (password: cyclic-partition-starboard).



[**From Alpha to Creation: Religion in the Deep South**](#)

February 17–August 18, 2024

**Raleigh, East Building, Level B, Video Gallery,
Photography Gallery 1 (Julian T. Baker Jr. Gallery) and 2
(Allen G. Thomas Jr. Gallery)**

Free

For the first time, the NCMA and SECCA (NCMA, Winston-Salem) present an exhibition shared between both spaces, bringing awareness of contemporary artists to audiences across our state. Examining place and theology from North Carolina to eastern Texas, *From Alpha to Creation: Religion in the Deep South* explores the ideological relationships among various belief systems, highlighting the blending of spiritual practices throughout our daily lives. For many artists throughout the exhibition—who originated or worked extensively in the region—the South represents a unique context for religious expression reflected by racial, political, and economic structures. At both locations *From Alpha to Creation* incorporates photography, video, and sculpture to survey various iconography and rituals throughout our landscape. *From Alpha to Creation* is on view in Winston-Salem at [SECCA \(NCMA Winston-Salem\)](#) from February 15 to May 26, 2024.

Exhibition credit information

Both *To Take Shape and Meaning* and *From Alpha to Creation* are organized by the North Carolina Museum of Art. *Layered Legacies* is organized by the North Carolina Museum of Art in partnership with the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts.

All spring exhibitions are 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 was made possible by Ann and Jim Goodnight/The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fund for Curatorial and Conservation Research and Travel. Additionally, *To Take Shape and Meaning* is made possible, in part, by the Hartfield Foundation and Libby and Lee Buck.

Image captions (top to bottom)

Virgil Ortiz (Cochiti Pueblo), Convergence, Defenders Descend from Portal to Pueblo, 2023, Cochiti red clay, white clay slip, red clay slip, and black pigment (wild spinach plant), H. 28 1/2 × W. 19 × D. 18 in., Gift of Alan and Benjamin King, Jeffrey Childers and Onay Cruz Gutierrez, Joyce Fitzpatrick and Jay Stewart, Valerie Hillings and B. J. Scheessele, Marjorie Hodges and Carlton Midyette, Stefanie and Douglas Kahn, Bonnie and John Medinger, Mindy and Guy Solie, Cathy and Jim Stuart, Libby and Lee Buck, Liza and Lee Roberts, and an anonymous donor

Household of Margaret Ann Bynum Jordan Ridley, Pieced quilt, 1846, Southampton County, Virginia, cotton, 116 1/2 × 100 in., MESDA Collection, Gift of Julia Ridley Smith and Moreland Tyler Smith (5777)

Ralph Burns, Tent Revival #1, Naples, NC, 1992, 1992, gelatin silver print, 11 × 14 in.; © Ralph Burns

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About the North Carolina Museum of Art

The North Carolina Museum of Art's 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 is located at 2110 Blue Ridge Road in Raleigh and is home to the People's Collection. It is the art museum of the State of North Carolina, under the auspices of Governor Roy Cooper; an agency of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, guided by the direction of Secretary D. Reid Wilson; and led by Director Valerie Hillings.

About the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

The NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) manages, promotes, and enhances the things that people love about North Carolina—its diverse arts and culture, rich history, and spectacular natural areas. Through its programs, the department enhances education, stimulates economic development, improves public health, expands accessibility, and strengthens community resiliency.

The department manages over 100 locations across the state, including 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, five science museums, four aquariums, 35 state parks, four recreation areas, dozens of state trails and natural areas, the NC Zoo, the NC Symphony, the State Library, the State Archives, the NC Arts Council, the African American Heritage Commission, the American Indian Heritage Commission, the State Historic Preservation Office, the Office of State Archaeology, the Highway Historical Markers program, the NC Land and Water Fund, and the Natural Heritage Program. For more information, please visit