

Mint Museum Uptown in Charlotte, NC, Features Monumental Work by Summer Wheat

The Mint Museum Uptown's new four-story installation *Foragers* offers a transcendent experience while celebrating the tradition of women as makers and providers

Unlike anything ever seen at The Mint Museum before, Brooklyn-based artist Summer Wheat's *Foragers* is a monumental piece of public work of art spanning 96 windows, four stories, and 3,720 square feet at Mint Museum Uptown's Robert Haywood Morrison Atrium, in Charlotte, NC. The myriad of vibrant panels that give the illusion of stained glass and celebrates the tradition of women as makers and providers.

"In so many ways, *Foragers* is a monumental tribute to all those anonymous female makers and laborers who have made North Carolina the place that it is today: the Catawba clay workers, the Cherokee basket makers, the enslaved and freed African-American fishers and farmers, the countless woodworkers, weavers, and quilters," says Jen Sudul Edwards, PhD, the Mint's chief curator and curator of contemporary art.

Foragers is part of a larger exhibition *In Vivid Color* that opened on Oct. 16, 2020, at Mint Museum Uptown. *In Vivid Color* brings together four innovative contemporary artists - Summer Wheat, Gisela Colon, Spencer Finch, and Jennifer Steinkamp - who create works celebrating the power of color and its ability to permeate the space around us. Their work is juxtaposed with a selection of paintings and works on paper, drawn primarily from The Mint Museum's permanent collection, which showcase artists' more traditional exploration of color.

The magnitude and brilliance of *Foragers* turns the typical museum experience on its head and creates a transcendent space of contemplation and beauty at a time when a weary public craves an escape - and a spacious, social-distancing-friendly one at that. While standard admission rates apply to the museum's Level 3 and Level 4 galleries, access to Mint Museum Uptown's atrium and the *Foragers* installation is free.

Summer Wheat's installation was commissioned by The Mint Museum. The installation and purchase of *Foragers* was funded by the Wells Fargo Foundation Women Artists Fund, which aims to address and rebalance gender representation in museum collections.

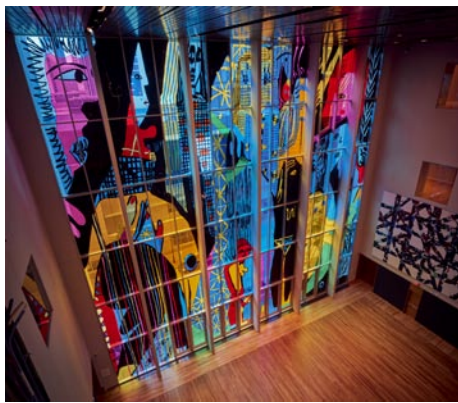
"The Wells Fargo Foundation Women Artists Fund is designed to address and help reconcile the imbalance of female representation in museum collections," says Jay Everette, Wells Fargo's senior vice president of philanthropy and corporate social responsibility.

"Just 11 percent of all acquisitions and 14 percent of exhibitions at 26 prominent American museums over the past decade were of work by female artists. According to a joint investigation by *In Other Words* and *artnet News*, a total of 260,470 works have entered museums' permanent collections since 2008. Only 29,247 were by women."

Foragers celebrates North Carolina's creativity and industry - those named and anonymous.

"*Foragers* presents a tradition in which women were the original hunters, technologists, and artists," Wheat says. "This array of women connected by geometric patterns echoes the psychological space of women supporting each other. They are marching together connecting to creatures from land and water, demonstrating their inherent link to natural elements and to the intricate depths of the unconscious."

Contemporary artist Summer Wheat (b.



Summer Wheat (American, 1977-). "Foragers", 2020, colored vinyl on mylar, 805.5 x 738.5 inches. TO263.laqqqq. Photo credit: Chris Edwards.

1977, Oklahoma City, OK) lives and works in Brooklyn, New York City. She received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Central Oklahoma and a Master of Fine Arts from Savannah College of Art and Design. She is known for being an innovator, constantly blurring boundaries between traditional art forms and mediums. Consider the way she pushes acrylic paint through fine wire mesh to create large-scale paintings, like her *With Side, With Shoulder*, part of the Mint's permanent collection and on view in the Mint's new exhibition *New Days, New Works*.

Wheat has had solo exhibitions with lauded institutions, galleries and museums across the nation, including the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art in Kansas City (2020); KMAC Museum, Louisville (2019); Shulamit Nazarian, Los Angeles (2018); Smack Mellon, New York (2018); Henry Art Gallery, University of Washington, Seattle (2017); and Oklahoma Contemporary, Oklahoma City (2016).

Wheat is having her first solo exhibition with SOCO Gallery in Charlotte, entitled *Lather, Rinse, Repeat*, on view through Nov. 6, 2020. The exhibition will feature large-scale paintings and two "pebble seats" focusing on the theme of bathing and grooming. The theme, drawn on throughout art history, frequently depicts idyllic figures and scenery, but in Wheat's work, the women portrayed are imperfect and defy traditional notions of beauty. Wheat will have a solo exhibition with Shulamit Nazarian, Los Angeles in 2021.

Additional museum exhibitions include Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston (2013-14); deCordova Museum and Sculpture Park (2013); and Torrance Art Museum (2013). Wheat received the 2016 New York NADA Artadia Award and the 2019 Northern Trust Purchase Prize at EXPO Chicago. Wheat's work is in the permanent collections of the Dallas Museum of Art, Texas; de Young Museum, San Francisco, CA; Pérez Art Museum Miami; The Henry Art Gallery at the University of Washington, Seattle; The Mint Museum, Charlotte, NC and the Speed Art Museum in Louisville, Kentucky.

Established in 1936 as North Carolina's first art museum, The Mint Museum is a leading, innovative cultural institution and museum of international art and design. With two locations - Mint Museum Randolph in the heart of Eastover and Mint Museum Uptown at Levine Center for the Arts on South Tryon Street - the Mint boasts one of the largest collections in the Southeast and is committed to engaging and inspiring members of the global community.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 704/337-2000 or visit (<https://mintmuseum.org/>).

2021. The exhibition will feature paintings, sculpture and works on paper of varied context and imagery including both realism and abstraction.

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Featured artists include: John Acorn, J. Bardin, Romare Bearden, Carl R. Blair, Katherine Boxall, Chris Clamp, Gee's Bend Quilters, Lee Hall, William Halsey, Rick Horton, Ida Kohlmeyer, Philip Mullen, Edward Rice, Brian Rutenberg, Tom Stanley, and Leo Twiggs.

In addition to artists actively represented by Jerald Melberg Gallery, the exhibition will include works of art from other galleries in our region. We thank our colleagues from Elder Gallery of Contemporary Art, Hampton III Gallery and Hodges Taylor Gallery for their willingness to loan works of art for this exhibition.

Jerald Melberg Gallery is located on South Sharon Amity Road near the intersection with Providence Road.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 704/365-3000 or visit (www.jeraldmelberg.com).



Work by Romare Bearden

Davidson College in Davidson, NC, Offers Exhibit of Contemporary Portraits

Davidson College in Davidson, NC, will present an exhibition of contemporary portraits entitled *True Likeness*, co-curated by Tom Stanley and Director/Curator Lia Rose Newman, on view in the Van Every/Smith Galleries, virtually and by special viewing appointments, through Feb. 21, 2021.

The Van Every/Smith Galleries at Davidson College presents *True Likeness*, which will have a limited number of viewing appointments available to the general public Dec. 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 2020, and Jan. 7 and 8, 2021. Appointments may be reserved via this link (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040f4fa4aa2daafd0-true>). It will be on view virtually and for Davidson College students, faculty, and staff, through Feb. 21, 2021. A printed catalogue including an essay by Tom Stanley will accompany the exhibition.

Portraits serve as expressions of identity, popular taste, social standing, and as documents of who, when, and where. Representing one's self in the best light or seeing others in understandable terms are motives behind why we record images of each other, whether for rituals, documentation of events, art making, or as expressions of status.

Artists included in this exhibition hail from all over the United States. Some may be familiar, others are more on the fringe of the art world. Their own identities, and those presented through their works, provide a snapshot of who we are as a country. The exhibition took shape over the last two years as overt and coded hate speech became congruent with one of the most culturally divisive elections of our time. It became apparent that highlighting and celebrating diversity is paramount.

Participating artists include: Endia Beal, Antonius-Tin Bui, Sam Doyle, Amir H. Falah, LaToya Ruby Frazier, Juan R. Fuentes, Raymond Grubb, Holly Keogh, Deborah Luster, Gene Merritt, Dan Robert Miller, John Monteith, Kameron Neal, Deborah Roberts, Wendy Red Star, Chris Sullivan, Bill Thelen, and Mickalene Thomas.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant mask mandate have prevented



Deborah Luster; 'Levelle "Black" Tolliver (Judas)'; 2012-2013; Sentenced to Life, Angola Prison, Louisiana; Toned gelatin silver print mounted on dibond; 50 x 40 inches; Courtesy of the Artist and Jack Shainman Gallery

us from seeing the faces of others while in public spaces. Perhaps our inability to focus on superficial characteristics will enable us to instead reflect on our profound similarities as humans, a notion many of the artists included in *True Likeness* address through their art.

The exhibition is available to view online at the link below. If you would like to visit the exhibition in person, a limited number of viewing appointments are available.

The exhibition, programs, and brochure would not have been possible without the support of the Herb Jackson and Laura Grosch Gallery Endowment, Bacca Foundation Visiting Lecture and Artist Fund, Davidson College Friends of the Arts, and Stories Yet to Be Told: Race, Racism and Accountability, a Davidson College institutional initiative.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, contact Lia Newman, Director/Curator by e-mail at (linewman@davidson.edu) or visit (www.davidsoncollegeartgalleries.org).



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Jerald Melberg Gallery in Charlotte, NC, Offers Exhibit by Southern Artists

Jerald Melberg Gallery in Charlotte, NC, is pleased to present an invitational group exhibition, *Southern Artists*, featuring artists with southern connections by birth or residence, on view from Nov. 14 through Jan. 2,