Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art in Winston-Salem, NC, Features Works by Lonnie Holley

The Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA) in Winston-Salem, NC, is presenting Somewhere in a Dream I Got Lost: Works by Lonnie Holley, a solo exhibition showcasing the multi-faceted art and music of this prolific self-taught artist, on view through May 18, 2019.

Curated by Wendy Earle, Somewhere in a Dream I Got Lost will tie together the various threads of the artist's output, showcasing found-art sculptures, works on paper, steel sculpture and music and video selections from Holley's three albums. The works of art and music present a snapshot of Holley's artistic output from the last several years, mainly 2012-2018.

"Lonnie Holley is a fantastic artist and was due for a solo exhibition at SECCA, having first been exhibited here back in 1990 as part of the group exhibition Next Generation: Southern Black Aesthetic," said Wendy Earle, Curator at SECCA. "His work in every media illustrates his amazing energy and creativity. Holley can imbue each song, sculpture, even his iPhone collages, with deep meaning and historical reference. He is constantly questioning the world we live in and his place in it, and visitors to this exhibition will be able to create a lot of their own meanings from looking at his art."

Holley was born on Feb. 10, 1950, in Birmingham, AL. From the age of five, he worked various jobs: picking up trash at a drive-in movie theatre, washing dishes, and cooking. He lived in a whiskey house, on the state fairgrounds, and in several foster homes. His early life was chaotic and Holley was never afforded the pleasure of a real childhood.

Since 1979, Holley has devoted his life to the practice of improvisational creativity. His art and music, born out of struggle, hardship, but perhaps more importantly, out of furious curiosity and biological necessity, has manifested itself in drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, performance, and sound. Holley's sculptures are constructed from found materials in the oldest tradition of African American sculpture. Objects, already imbued with cultural and artistic metaphor, are combined into narrative sculptures that commemorate places, people, and events. His work is now in collections of major museums throughout the country, on permanent display in the United Nations, and has been displayed in the White House Rose Garden.

Holley did not start making and performing music in a studio nor does his creative process mirror that of the typical musician. His music and lyrics are improvised on the spot and morph and evolve



Lonnie Holley, "Beneath the Water", 2017, Steel, 90x35x30

with every event, concert, and recording. In Holley's original art environment, he would construct and deconstruct his visual works, repurposing their elements for new pieces. This often led to the transfer of individual narratives into the new work creating a cumulative composite image that has depth and purpose beyond its original singular meaning. The layers of sound in Holley's music, likewise, are the result of decades of evolving experimentation.

Holley continues to make art, record music, and tour occasionally, either alone or with collaborators. The songs and the shows are never the same, as Holley never performs the same song twice. He released his third album in September 2018 entitled MITH, which has already made numerous best album of 2018 lists.

The Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA) is a creative leader of the arts in the Southeast, a museum boldly giving artists of the region a platform for visibility while connecting local communities with the international world of contemporary art. SECCA is an affiliate of the North Carolina Museum of Art, a division of the NC Department of Cultural Resources. SECCA receives operational funding from The Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. Additional funding is provided by the James G. Hanes Memorial Fund.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings or visit (www. secca.org).

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Seagrove is a Community of Working Potters & home to the North Carolina Pottery Center

is celebrating their first year of business with an exhibit of contemporary modernist abstract painting, on view through Feb. 2, 2019.

"We have been exhibiting the best mid-century modernist art and abstraction available to us from family estates as well as contemporary modernist works," says the owners. "We decided modernist art was our specialization, especially the art of midcentury, because every artwork carried the artist's belief it was new, better than before and was shaping the future. Such positivity is in short supply now days and it has been our job to turn that around and conserve a market for mid century art and promote contemporary art grounded in modernist ideals and working methods.'

"We are located in the downtown historic district of the city of Louisburg, NC - 105 S. Main Street, across from the old courthouse. We were fortunate to have collaborated with the city in the labor-intensive renovation of this 1912 storefront - you all can't imagine - and to have worked with Jonathan Franklin, an enlightened visionary city manager.

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Partner Pamela Andrejev designed our space for its retro mid-century spirit. Partner Everett Mayo tapped fifty years of contacts to find quality art to market. We are proud to be a part of the for-real city renaissance.

"For our one-year anniversary, we are excited to be promoting contemporary modernist works with painters Gayle Blackerby continued on Page 21



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