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Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County in Fayetteville, NC, Features Works from Myrna Colley-Lee Collection

The Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County in Fayetteville, NC, will present *Reflections: African American Life*, featuring works from the Myrna Colley-Lee Collection, an exhibition which honors the lives, traditions and environments of African Americans in the 20th century, on view from Feb. 4 through Mar. 4, 2017. A reception will be held on Feb. 3, from 7-9pm.

Featuring more than 50 pieces from the collection of renowned costume designer and arts patron, Myrna Colley-Lee, *Reflections* tells a story of heritage, community, and place. The exhibit was organized by International Arts & Artists, Washington, DC, in collaboration with Myrna Colley-Lee Collection.

Comprised of paintings, photographs, textile pieces and works on paper, the exhibition is thoughtfully curated to reflect the culture and experiences of African Americans, celebrating their unique style, and providing insight into their Southern roots and migratory history.

The imagery in *Reflections* focuses primarily on narrative works and landscapes of everyday life, past and present. With this diverse selection, figurative artworks lead viewers on a journey into memory and beyond. Each piece reveals a portion of the inspiring story of the African diaspora that the entire collection portrays so elegantly.

Leading this exploration are works on paper by prominent African-American artists including: Elizabeth Catlett, Gwen Knight, Betye Saar, John Scott, and Hale Woodruff. Rural landscapes captured by Maude Schulyer Clay, Gerald DeLoach, Randy Hayes, and Tom Rankin are set in contrast with urban landscape paintings by Ernest Crichlow and Rod Ivey. Studio portraits by celebrated photographer James Van Der Zee, and the more candid photography of Roland Freeman, Milly Moorhead, and Eudora Welty, provide a glimpse into the



Maude Schulyer Clay, American, born, 1953, "Four Cottonseed Houses", 1996, Sepia-toned silver gelatin print

African diaspora. Works by collage masters Romare Bearden and James Denmark, along with a haunting shadowbox construction by postmodernist Radcliffe Bailey, speak to the layered histories of a strong and spiritual people. A rare painting by famed artist Charles White concludes the transformative journey and conveys the quiet wisdom of *Reflections*.

The *Reflections* collection both represents a dialogue between the artists and the ever-evolving African-American identity, and reflects the attitude and eye of Colley-Lee - artist and cultural connoisseur with great respect and understanding for the African storytelling tradition.

Myrna Colley-Lee, collector of the works featured in the exhibition, is a leading advocate for the arts, an arts patron, and a professional artist: a pioneer costume designer in the Black Theatre Movement. Born in North Carolina, Colley-Lee has been a world traveler since the age of 17. Colley-Lee collected art from small villages in African and traditional venues, supporting artists at every level. She champions the arts from her many roles of service including creating a foundation that promotes writers and their art.

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Colley-Lee is the former Chair of the Board of Directors of the Mississippi Arts Commission. She serves on the Acquisitions Committee of the Mississippi Museum of Art and on the Advisory Boards of both the Ogden Museum of Southern Art in New Orleans, and the College of Architecture, Art and Design at Mississippi State University.

Getting her start in the 1960s and continuing to design for regional theatres today, Colley-Lee is credited as one of the foremost costume designers in the Black Theatre Movement. Her work was featured in the exhibition *Songs of Social Significance* at the Tobin Collection Gallery of the McNay Art Museum in San Antonio, TX, in 2012. The exhibition showcased costumes,

renderings and collages from plays and a study of her design process.

The Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County was founded in 1973. As a link between artists, arts and cultural organizations and the community, the nonprofit agency administers programs in partnership with a variety of local agencies to stimulate community development through the arts. The Arts Council supports individual creativity, cultural preservation, economic development and lifelong learning through the arts.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call Mary Kinney, at 910/323-1776, ext. 239 or visit (www.theartscouncil.com/reflections).

Methodist University in Fayetteville, NC, Offers Early Photography Exhibition

The David McCune International Art Gallery at Methodist University in Fayetteville, NC, will host a photography exhibit, *Impressionism to Modernism: Masterworks of Early Photography*, on view from Feb. 9 through Apr. 8, 2017. A reception will be held on Feb. 9, from 6 to 9pm.

Impressionism to Modernism: Masterworks of Early Photography celebrates an intrepid group of photographers at the turn of the 20th century on both sides of the Atlantic who fought to establish photography as a full-fledged art form. Their leader was Alfred Stieglitz, whose exhibition space, the "Little Galleries of the Photo-Secession," and exquisitely printed magazine, "Camera Work," advanced the vision of the most ambitious artist-photographers, including Heinrich Kühn, Gertrude Käsebier, Edward Steichen, and Clarence White, as well as Stieglitz himself.

This exhibit is drawn from the private collection of Michael Mattis and Judith Hochberg. The exhibit also covers the explosive aftermath of the Photo-Secession, when, starting with the work of Paul Strand



Alfred Stieglitz (American, 1864-1946): "The Steerage," © 1907, photogravure, 13 1/8x10 1/2 in. Collection of Michael Mattis & Judith Hochberg. Courtesy of art2art Circulating Exhibition.

in 1915-16, photography transitioned by fits
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