

Mint Museum Uptown in Charlotte, NC, Features Pins Worn by Madeleine Albright

The Mint Museum Uptown in Charlotte, NC, will present the exhibit, *Read My Pins: The Madeleine Albright Collection*, on view from June 30 through Sept. 23, 2012.

During her career in public service, Madeleine Albright famously used her jewelry to communicate diplomatic messages. *Read My Pins: The Madeleine Albright Collection*, which reveals an intriguing story of American history and foreign policy as told through Secretary Albright's jeweled pins.



Madeleine Albright, portrait by Timothy Greenfield-Sanders

"The Mint Museum is proud to bring this groundbreaking exhibition to Charlotte audiences at the same time the city is preparing to host one of the nation's ultimate exercises of democracy, the Democratic National Convention," said Dr. Kathleen V. Jameson, President & CEO of The Mint Museum. The convention runs Sept. 3-6, 2012.

Secretary Albright is scheduled to visit The Mint Museum on July 13-14 for a series of events around the exhibition, including a private invitation-only event on July 13 and public events on July 14. Organized by the Museum of Arts and Design in New York, the exhibition features more than 200 pieces of jewelry.

The collection that Secretary Albright cultivated is distinctive and democratic - sometimes demure and understated, sometimes outlandish and outspoken - and spans more than a century of jewelry design and fascinating pieces from across the globe. The works on view are chosen for their symbolic value, and while some are fine antiques, many are costume jewelry. Together the pieces in this expressive collection explore the power of jewelry to communicate through a style and language of its own.

Jewelry became part of Albright's diplomatic arsenal in 1994 when Saddam Hussein's government-controlled press referred to Albright, who was at that time US Ambassador to the United Nations, as an "unparalleled serpent." At her next meeting on the subject of Iraq, Albright wore a golden snake brooch, beginning a career-long practice of using jewelry to convey and reinforce diplomatic messages.

"While President George H.W. Bush had been known for saying 'Read my lips,' I began urging colleagues and reporters to 'Read my pins,'" Albright has said. Through this traveling exhibition and the accompanying book "Read My Pins: Stories from a Diplomat's Jewel Box" (2009), Secretary Albright has given the world an opportunity to explore American history and foreign policy through the unique lens of jewelry.

Read My Pins: The Madeleine Albright Collection was organized by the Museum of Arts and Design in New York. Generous support for the original exhibition was provided by Bren Simon and for the exhibition catalogue by St. John Knits. The Mint Museum is supported by the Arts & Science Council and North Carolina Arts Council.

The Mint Museum is a non-profit, visual arts institution comprised of two dynamic facilities: the newly opened Mint Museum Uptown and the historic Mint Museum Randolph. As the oldest art museum in North Carolina, The Mint Museum offers its visitors a remarkable opportunity to experience art through two facilities that feature a global collection spanning over 4,500 years of human creativity.

Located in what was the original branch of the United States Mint, the Mint Museum Randolph opened in 1936 in Charlotte's Eastover neighborhood as the first art museum in North Carolina. Today, intimate galleries invite visitors to engage with the art of the ancient Americas, ceramics and decorative arts, historic costume and fashionable dress, European, African, and Asian art, among other collections. Resources include a reference library with over 15,000 volumes, a theater featuring lectures and performances, and a Museum Shop offering merchandise that complements both the permanent collection and special exhibitions.

The Mint Museum Uptown houses the internationally renowned Mint Museum of Craft + Design, as well as outstanding collections of American, contemporary, and European art. Designed by Machado and Silvetti Associates of Boston, the five-story, 145,000-square-foot facility combines inspiring architecture with groundbreaking exhibitions to provide visitors with unparalleled educational and cultural experiences. Located in the heart of Charlotte's burgeoning center city, the Mint Museum Uptown is an integral part of the Levine Center for the Arts, a cultural campus that includes the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art, the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts and Culture, the Knight Theater, and the Duke Energy Center. The Mint Museum Uptown also features a range of visitor amenities, including the 240-seat James B. Duke Auditorium, the Lewis Family Gallery, art studios, a restaurant, and a museum shop.

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

Lark & Key Gallery in Charlotte, NC, Offers Works by Storytellers

Lark & Key Gallery and Boutique, in Charlotte, NC, will present the exhibit, *Storytellers*, featuring new works by Elizabeth Foster, Vicki Sawyer and Tracey Broome, on view from June 1 through July 28, 2012.

Born into a family of painters, musicians and creative thinkers, Elizabeth Foster was never bored as a child. Always encouraged to "make things", it was only natural that she would find her own creative path - eventually becoming a songwriter and painter herself. Foster's love of music influences her artwork. She

currently lives in Nashville, TN, where Americana, Folk, Bluegrass, Jazz and Old Time players and performers surround her. She is drawn to familiarity of the pattern within, the feeling of nostalgia and the underlying current of release. Her creative process incorporates these elements, allowing her to tell stories, often with a bit of whimsy, on canvas.

Franklin, TN, based Vicki Sawyer spent her childhood amazed at the charming personalities of birds and the knowledge her father had about them. She

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Work by Elizabeth Foster

eventually came to the conclusion that if birds could make nests then they could make hats. This inspired her bird paintings in which each bird wears a 'hat' of natural materials, with the series later expanding to other animals and concepts, such as masks and encounters with toys. Sawyer's detailed paintings - birds with hats, match-making sheep and dating squirrels - draw you into their world and bring a sense of peace, vibrancy, joy and humor.

Tracey Broome uses clay to convey her view of the world - fragments of thoughts, feelings and memories of her life. Working out of her studio in Chapel Hill, NC, she makes sculptural houses and barns that are inspired by discarded objects, antiques, old cemeteries, run down barns and dilapidated houses. Her pieces often become sacred spaces for discarded treasures of our past, treasures that range from vintage doll parts to architectural objects. With simple forms and serene colors Broome offers a moment of contemplation for the viewer, hoping they find a connection to their own experiences and memories.

For further info check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call 704/334-4616 or visit (www.larkandkey.com).

Commentary

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and 24.

It's easy to see that North Carolina is way out in front of South Carolina in celebrating this event, but then again, the state of North Carolina has done so much more to develop an art craft industry as a tourism generator, and they have been very successful in attracting craft artists to their state - especially Western North Carolina.

Hopefully we'll bring you more news about events associated with this celebration as the year continues.

It's Summer

Well the dream of a mild Summer is gone. We had it great this Winter - let's not get greedy, the reality of the matter is that we live in the South - the hot South and when Summer comes in the Carolinas, the moun-

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Cristina Córdova, *Fisiología del adorno*, ceramic, 15" x 8" w x 6.5" d



Cristina Córdova
New Work

Artist Talk & Reception
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6pm Artist Talk
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Haven't found the article about your exhibit yet? Did you send it to us?

Don't feel left out. Be included.

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be June 24th for the July 2012 issue and July 24 for the August 2012 issue.

Don't put it off.

Get your info to us - soon.