

# Columbia Museum of Art in Columbia, SC, Features Works by Sam Gilliam & Black Artists From the CMA Collection

The Columbia Museum of Art in Columbia, SC, will present *Sam Gilliam: Printmaker*, on view from May 24 through Aug. 31, 2025.

Sam Gilliam (1933 – 2022) was one of the great innovators in postwar American painting. Early in his career, he made clean-edged abstractions in line with the Washington Color School painters. He gradually loosened up his style, soaking or pouring colors directly onto his canvases and folding them before they dried - a technique that creates accordion lines and a deep sense of texture. Around 1965, Gilliam made his greatest stylistic innovation: He got rid of the stretcher bars that traditionally underpin a painting and draped his canvases from the wall like sheets from a clothesline.

Gilliam began his printmaking in the 1970s. He would occasionally use traditional techniques such as screen printing but would also take his prints back to the studio to cut them apart and stitch them back together with a heavy nylon filament, resulting in a series of highly innovative and unique works.

In 1972 he became the first Black artist to represent the United States at the Venice Biennale and his work is represented in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Phillips Collection, Washington, DC; the Kunstmuseum, Basel; and many others — including the Columbia Museum of Art.

This exhibition features 37 of Gilliam's finest prints created between 1972 and 2009, from the Michael K. and Marian E. Butler Collection of Miami, FL. It is organized by Landau Traveling Exhibitions, Los Angeles, CA, in association with the Griots Gallery, Miami, FL.

*Sam Gilliam: Printmaker* is presented through the support of our generous  
Page 20 - Carolina Arts, May 2025



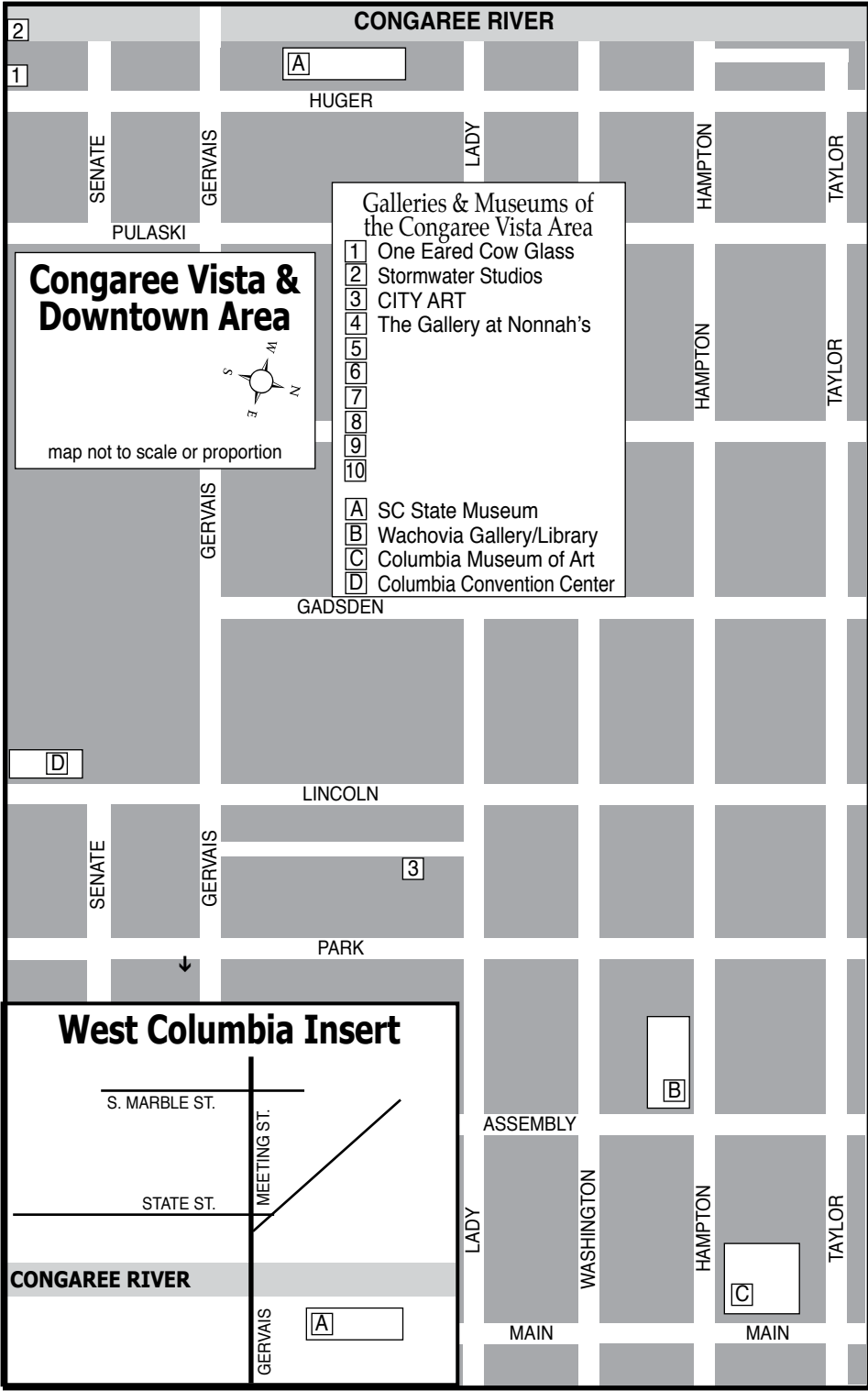
Sam Gilliam, "For Xavier", 1990, Serigraph, 32 1/5 x 40 1/8 in. © 2024 Estate of Sam Gilliam / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

sponsors and grantors. Presenting sponsor: Bank of America Private Bank. Gold sponsors: Maynard Nexsen PC; Dr. Suzanne R. Thorpe and Dr. John W. Baynes; BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina. Bronze sponsors: Barbara B. Boyd; Allen and Gladys Coles; Dr. and Mrs. Benjamin M. Gimarc; Metro Wines Asheville. Benefactors: Mr. and Mrs. John R. Kessler, Jr.; Cathy and Mike Love; Beth and Matthew Richardson; Robinson Gray. Grantors: City of Columbia; Experience Columbia SC; Richland County Government; South Carolina Arts Commission; Discover South Carolina.

Also on view at the Museum is the exhibit, *Let's Have a Talk: Black Artists from the CMA Collection*, on view from May 24 through Aug. 31, 2025.

Bringing together a multigenerational group of 15 Black artists working in and around abstraction, *Let's Have a Talk* pushes against long-standing expectations that work by Black artists must present a clear message about their racial identity and experience, and it celebrates their crucial, yet often dismissed, role in abstract art.

continued above on next column to the right



## Your Ad Here

Reach our readers with this size ad, our smallest starting at \$10

To start in the next issue call 843/693-1306 or e-mail to ([info@carolinaarts.com](mailto:info@carolinaarts.com))

art supplies • framing • gallery  
artist classes • reception hall rental

## CITY ART

1224 Lincoln St. Columbia, SC 29201  
(803) 252-3613 • [www.cityartonline.com](http://www.cityartonline.com)

Featuring sculpture, prints, paintings, and photography from the CMA Collection, this exhibition presents a range of abstract styles including Oliver Lee Jackson's expressive, gestural mark making, Lorna Simpson's ambiguous forms, and McArthur Binion's minimalist designs. Titled after conceptual artist Adrian Piper's socially provocative print included in the show, *Let's Have a Talk* is an open-ended invitation to start a conversation about Black artists' contributions to modern and contemporary art history and the many facets of abstraction. Within these discussions other dialogues may emerge

- between artists, between unique objects, between viewer and image, and within ourselves.  
*Let's Have a Talk: Black Artists from the CMA Collection* is presented through the support of our generous grantors: City of Columbia; Experience Columbia SC; Richland County Government; South Carolina Arts Commission; and Discover South Carolina.  
For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 803/799-2810 or visit ([www.columbiamuseum.org](http://www.columbiamuseum.org)).

# 701 Center for Contemporary Art in Columbia, SC, Offers Exhibit Focused on Rural Architecture in the South

The 701 Center for Contemporary Art in Columbia, SC, is presenting *Rural Witnesses: Retracing & Reimagining Rural Architecture in the South*, on view through June 15, 2025.

This exhibition is a living archive that catalogs and celebrates these spaces, recognizing them not as static relics but as active participants in a narrative of transformation. These witnesses, whether they are weathered farmhouses or expansive fields, carry the imprints of generational labor, cultural heritage, and environmental shifts. By retracing the layers of this rural vernacular, we aim to ask not only what these spaces are, but also how they have

evolved through community knowledge, local materials, and the natural limits that shaped them.  
While the "why they are the way they are" is well-documented, the deeper exploration of this exhibition lies in uncovering how these slow, evolutionary processes - driven by scarcity, climate, and folk ingenuity - created spaces defined by necessity and adaptation.  
Through this exhibition, we aim to explore how rural architecture and life can evolve in response to technological innovation and global economic pressures while remaining grounded in the  
continued on Page 21