



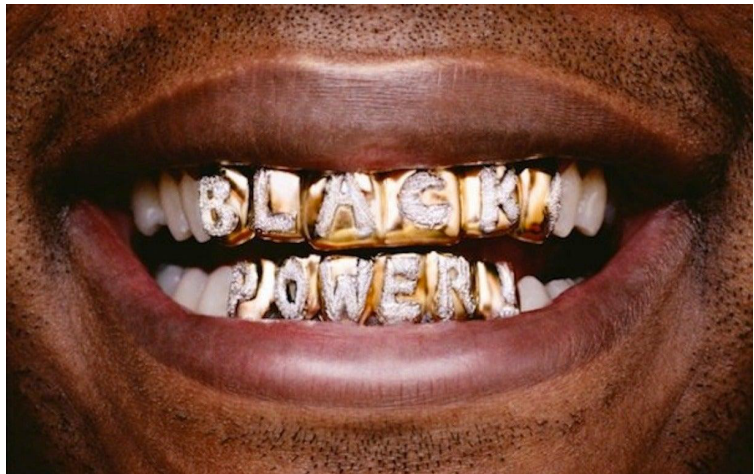
North Carolina Museum of Art

North Carolina Museum of Art to Highlight Global Contemporary Artists in Fall Exhibitions

September exhibition features works from a promised gift, including Mickalene Thomas, Betye Saar, Rashid Johnson, Sanford Biggers, Yolanda Andrade, and more

Exhibition on Egúngún African masquerades to open in October, showcasing contemporary and historical ensembles

Raleigh, NC—Global contemporary artists will be celebrated in the fall exhibitions featured at the North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA), starting with an exhibition announcing the promised gift of a private collection of more than 100 works of contemporary art by collectors Randy Shull and Hedy Fischer, opening in September. A selection of over 40 artworks from their collection, amassed over the past three decades, will go on view in an exhibition titled *Start Talking: Fischer/Shull Collection of Contemporary Art* and features major works by artists from around the world, including Abraham Cruzvillegas, Vanessa German, Trenton Doyle Hancock, Graciela Iturbide, Pope.L, Tina Modotti, Gabriel Rico, Alison Saar, Betye Saar, Hank Willis Thomas, Nari Ward, and many others. In October the NCMA extends its global outlook to Africa, presenting an exhibition on African and African-inspired masquerade that features two contemporary *egúngún* ensembles from the United States—one newly commissioned—in conversation with a historic example in the NCMA’s collection from 1930s Nigeria. *Egúngún*, meaning “powers concealed,” refers to both the masquerade itself and the idea that these masquerades are visible manifestations of departed African ancestors who visit earthside for blessings, celebrations, and remembrance. These ensembles highlight the path of the African diaspora and the connection of the past to the present in an exhibition titled *Powers Concealed: Egúngúns from Africa and America*.



Hank Willis Thomas, *Black Power*, 2005, LightJet print, 25 × 40 in., Collection of Hedy Fischer and Randy Shull; © 2022 Hank Willis Thomas. Courtesy of the artist and Goodman Gallery, Cape Town & Johannesburg, South Africa.

“Starting with the promised gift of the remarkable collection of longtime NCMA supporters Randy Shull and Hedy Fischer, the fall

exhibitions at the North Carolina Museum of Art continue our engagement with ongoing global conversations about power dynamics, representation, and remembrance,” said Museum director Valerie Hillings. “This gift will add new works by artists already in the collection like Zanele Muholi, Allison Saar, and Hank Willis Thomas. It greatly expands the Museum’s holdings of contemporary art with the addition of works by artists such as Sanford Biggers, Kevin Beasley, Peter Williams, Aaron Fowler, Aida Muluneh, and Rashid Johnson. The commissioned and contemporary *egúngún* featured alongside one of the NCMA’s historic examples will offer deeper insight into one of the most prolific aspects of African and diaspora artistic production today, an aspect that is an area of focus within the Museum’s collection.”

Start Talking: Fischer/Shull Collection of Contemporary Art will be on view September 17, 2022, through February 5, 2023, and feature more than 40 works, including photographs, paintings, mixed-media assemblages, and sculptures. Based in Asheville, NC, and Merida, Mexico, Fischer and Shull have built an ambitious collection of work by artists who challenge the status quo and diverge from dominant historical perspectives on identity, power, resistance, and agency, focusing on women and Black and Latin American artists, collecting art that, in their words, “has something to say.” This transformative gift will significantly expand the scope of the Museum’s permanent collection, making it possible for the NCMA to present a comprehensive picture of the many major movements and artists in contemporary art.

“Part of our commitment to the arts is a feeling of responsibility to participate in the global discourse that seeks to rewrite many overlooked histories and provide an avenue for conversation and understanding,” said collectors Shull and Fischer. “When building our collection, we focused on artists who were commenting on contemporary culture and who were underrepresented in many museums, including women and people of color. We are thrilled to see our collection in the NCMA, and to be able to share these dynamic works of art with the public.”

This exhibition is organized by NCMA Chief Curator and Curator of Contemporary Art Linda Dougherty and Assistant Curator of Contemporary Art Maya Brooks.

Powers Concealed: Egúngúns from Africa and America, on view October 15, 2022, to February 26, 2023, showcases *egúngúns*, created with layers of sumptuous, paneled fabrics sourced locally and globally, that typically appear at annual festivals to honor the past and seek blessings for the future. The exhibition will feature a Nigerian Yorùbá ensemble from the 1930s in the NCMA’s collection alongside a



Yoruba artists, Ogbomosho, Oyo State, Nigeria, *Egúngún Masquerade Ensemble (paka egúngún)*, circa 1930–50, cloth, wood, and buttons, H. approx. 60 in., Purchased with funds provided through a bequest from Lucile E. Moorman

newly commissioned *egúngún* titled *Baba Eleko* and presented by Babatunde Akinsegun, Alagba, or hereditary chief of *egúngún* at Oyotunji Village in South Carolina. The third ensemble, created by Atlanta-based artist Dr. Fahamu Pecou, examines the political and social violence enacted upon Black men in the United States, allowing those lost to revisit the living with healing and protection. The gallery will feature a video of the commissioned *Baba Eleko* in movement and still photographs of Pecou performing his garment, showing visitors the revelatory ways that “powers concealed” are used locally to serve the needs of the present. Displayed together for the first time, the vestments connect the spiritual and tangible, and the individual with the community.

This exhibition is organized by NCMA Curator of Global African Arts Amanda M. Maples.

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About the North Carolina Museum of Art

The North Carolina Museum of Art’s collection spans more than 5,000 years, from antiquity to the present, making the institution one of the premier art museums in the South. The Museum’s collection provides educational, aesthetic, intellectual, and cultural experiences for the citizens of North Carolina and beyond. The 164-acre Museum Park showcases the connection between art and nature through site-specific works of environmental art. The Museum offers changing special exhibitions, classes, lectures, family activities, films, and concerts.

The Museum is located at 2110 Blue Ridge Road in Raleigh and is home to the People’s Collection. It is the art museum of the State of North Carolina, under the auspices of Governor Roy Cooper; an agency of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, guided by the direction of Secretary D. Reid Wilson; and led by Director Valerie Hillings.

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