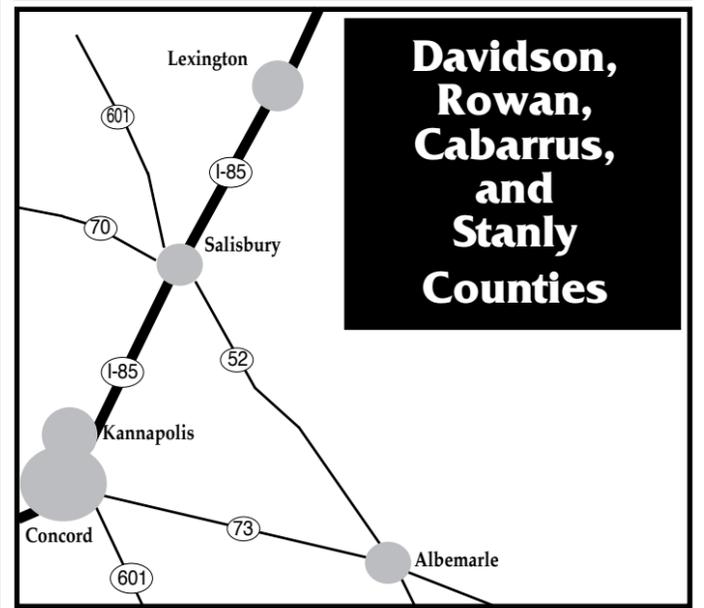
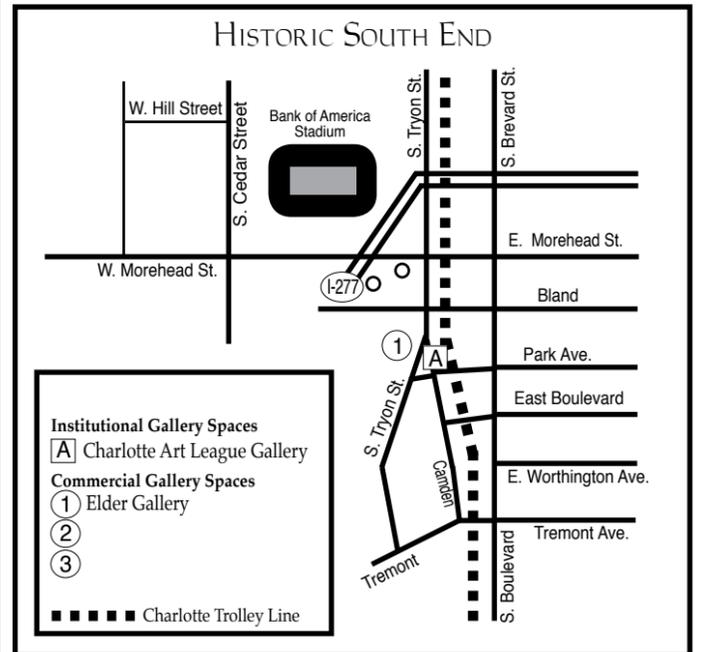


# Charlotte, NC Maps

## Uptown - South End & North



## Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture in Charlotte Offers Works by Robert Mars & Jay West

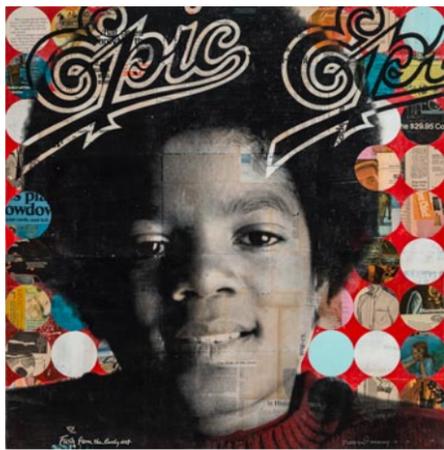
The Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture in Charlotte, NC, is presenting *A Love Supreme: Robert Mars featuring Jay West*, on view through Dec. 15, 2014.

The exhibit highlights a series of portraits of African-American icons that include Martin Luther King, Jr., Muhammad Ali, Lena Horne - Mars and West collaborated on this piece - John Coltrane and Michael Jackson.

King is the key figure in the series, for he dared to publicly dream of a better future for African Americans, one where his "four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." Portrayed with a photographic realism, these icons are shown at the height of their fame and in the glory of their youth.

Robert Mars' artwork chronicles an evolving fascination with the Golden Age of American popular culture and celebrates the icons of the 1950's and 60's by taking inspiration from this culture long past. Through the application of a rich color palette and tongue-in-cheek attitude, Mars' paintings evoke a vintage quality of design and pay homage to the idealized age of growth and hopefulness that was prevalent in the USA at the end of the Depression. This was a time before the internet and mobile technology, where information was not instantly available to millions and there was no such thing as instant internet celebrities, and instead people lived with the myth of the unique, untouchable and unforgettable personalities of Marilyn Monroe, Elizabeth Taylor, James Dean, Audrey Hepburn and Elvis Presley.

By merging his own concept of personal idols with those of mainstream culture,



"Fresh From The Lively Art," by Robert Mars & Jay West

Mars is able to focus his work on a deeper analysis of the Golden Age of American personalities. As an artist, he has always been fascinated with 1950's and 60's culture, and his early work reflects many of the architectural and mechanical icons from this era. Muscle cars, motels, logos and hulking monuments to the "modern" feeling of the time permeate his early canvases. More recently however, Mars' artwork has shifted toward the culture of celebrity and he is amazingly attuned to the fact that these instantly recognizable and larger-than-life personalities continue to resonate with contemporary American culture.

A graduate of Parsons School of Design in New York, Mars begins the creative process by preparing his surface with multiple layers of brown paper in order to define the edges and delineate the background planes of color. He then alternates layers of paint and vintage paper ephemera, sanding away portions

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opening December 5

## Holiday Gift Boutique

gifts by local artists and artisans starting at \$20

original paintings ◦ pottery ◦ jewelry  
sculpture ◦ photography  
woodwork ◦ fiber art  
silkscreen and batik wearable art  
hand-dyed and woven scarves  
and more.....

The Gift Boutique opens Dec. 5, 6-9 pm and will remain open through the holidays

major credit cards and cash accepted - no personal checks



1517 Camden Rd. ◦ Charlotte, NC 28203

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