



## Asheville Art Museum in Asheville, NC, Re-Opens on Nov. 14, 2019

The Asheville Art Museum, the hub for 20th- and 21st-century American art in Western North Carolina, will open to the public on Nov. 14, 2019, in downtown Asheville, NC. The \$24+ million, state-of-the-art facility encompasses 54,000 square feet and adds 70 percent more Collection gallery space. For the first time in the Museum's history, it has the capacity to host major traveling exhibitions from nationally recognized museums. The expansion increases its physical space and dramatically increases its role as a community center, educational resource, economic engine for WNC, and cultural concierge for the region's residents and visitors.

Working with local general contractor Beverly-Grant, local architecture firm ARCA Design, and New York-based architectural firm Ennead Architects, the project consisted of three main components:

The historic preservation of the Museum's current North Wing (formerly the 1926 Pack Library) to house the new John & Robyn Horn Education Center and Frances Mulhall Achilles Art Library.

Renovation and new construction of the East Wing including two special exhibition halls (Appleby Foundation Hall and Explore Asheville Hall) and more Collection storage.

Entirely new construction of the West Wing with a stunning glass façade.

Features of the new Museum include: A rooftop sculpture terrace and Perspective Café offer gorgeous mountain views; The Oculus, a 15-foot viewing window in the SECU Collection Hall affords unmatched immersive city views and a place for reflection; Public art installations and programming on the Plaza; Wells Fargo ArtPLAYce, a hands-on creative space for people of all ages; The Windgate Foundation Atrium, a light-filled place to take in large-scale works of art; and the SECU Collection Hall's 10 new galleries

"The new Asheville Art Museum is a warm and welcoming space on a personal level," says Executive Director Pamela L. Myers. "It's a space designed for people to come together and be inspired in an art-filled, open environment with all the amenities to make them feel comfortable."

Opening exhibitions include: *Appalachia Now! An Interdisciplinary Survey of Contemporary Art in Southern Appalachia* is the inaugural special exhibition of the



Asheville Art Museum's New Entrance

newly renovated Museum. Curated by Jason Andrew, the juried exhibition features 50 artists of diverse backgrounds from the Southern Appalachian states of North Carolina, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. *Appalachia Now!* provides a regional snapshot of the art of our time - a collective survey of contemporary Southern Appalachian culture. "Asheville is going through a significant shift through the type of work that's made and shown here - moving through and alongside an Appalachian craft background," says *Appalachia Now!* artist Molly Sawyer. "It's a reawakening of what artists can do as a community here. It's powerful and really exciting to be a part of." Meet four women artists tapped for the exhibition.

*Intersections in American Art* is the largest presentation ever drawn from the Museum's Collection of 5,000+ works and 4,000+ architectural drawings. It celebrates the unique qualities of art from Western North Carolina, placed within the context of art from across the United States. The intersections of regional and national art are highlighted throughout the galleries, as are three specific ways of understanding the works here: Time & Place; Experiments in Materials & Form; and Collaboration & Interdisciplinary Dialogue.

A grant from the Henry Luce Foundation allowed a diverse group to help reinterpret the Collection with ideas derived from Black Mountain College (1933-1957). Several of the most important artists of the 20th century taught or studied at Black Mountain College, and its legacy carries on in the work they produced later in their careers as well as of those they influenced.

*Many Become One* - Much like the traditional United States motto *E Pluribus Unum*, meaning "out of many, one," the

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artists who created the works seen in the Windgate Foundation Atrium and Plaza brought many separate parts together to make a unified whole. These works offer us a variety of possibilities for how to navigate our physical world on regional, national, and global levels. Featuring works by Alex Bernstein, Wesley Clark, Ken Fandell, Maya Lin, George Peterson, Henry Richardson, and Kenneth Snelson.

*Points of View: Recent Gifts to the Photography Collection* - A look at the collectors who have donated and how their own interests in photography become self-evident when their gifts are displayed together.

*50 Years of Western North Carolina Glass: The James D & Judith S. Moore Collection* - This exhibition highlights the beauty of the Moores' collection and illustrates the depth with which they have collected certain foundational artists in the Studio Glass Movement.

*Collecting Craft & Recent Gifts* - Presenting some of the new treasures to enter the Collection, with a special focus on craft. The Museum's Collection contains some of the best-known makers, both locally and nationally.

The Asheville Art Museum's mission is to transform lives through art. The Museum is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and receives support from the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the NC Department of Cultural Resources; the National Endowment for the Arts; the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and media sponsors *Citizen Times*, *WNC Magazine*, and Blue Ridge Public Radio.



Tom Shields (Asheville, NC), "Bridge", 2017, cast iron, 48 x 72 x 20 inches. © Tom Shields, Photography courtesy of Kohler Co.

The Museum gratefully acknowledges the leadership supporters of the new Museum and its vibrant programming: Appleby Foundation, Buncombe County, Buncombe County Tourism Development Authority, City of Asheville, Edith and Frances Mulhall Achilles Memorial Fund, Henry Luce Foundation, Institute of Museum and Library Services, Janirve Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, State Employees' Credit Union Foundation, William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust, Windgate Foundation and the many other foundations, businesses, and individuals who supported the Art WORKS for Asheville Capital Campaign and who support the exceptional programming, exhibitions and collections which enliven the new Asheville Art Museum on a daily basis.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 828/253-3227 or visit ([www.ashevilleart.org](http://www.ashevilleart.org)).

## Pink Dog Gallery in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Christie Calaycay and Holly de Saillan

Pink Dog Gallery in Asheville, NC, will present *EVOKE - to Hear, to See, to Feel, to Smell & to Taste*, a collaborative multi-sensory installation created by Christie Calaycay and Holly de Saillan, on view from Nov. 8 through Dec. 1, 2019. A reception will be held on Nov. 8, from 5:30-8pm.

While deeply reflecting upon current fearful and uncertain times, the artists ask themselves, "Have we become uncomfortably numb?" Leading to, "As artists, how do we respond?" The resulting collaboration is their response. Restorative sensory stimulation enables us to engage with the environment, communicate in multiple and complex ways and reduce our stress levels.

Inspiring our sensuous nature is important for overall emotional well-being.

Within the space of *EVOKE* the artists are exploring the means to invigorate, surprise, calm and stimulate one's senses. Please accept the invitation to contemplate the creative visions of these two artists.

Both longtime River Arts District artists, Christie Calaycay is a metalsmith/jewelry designer, and Holly de Saillan is a lifelong ceramic artist.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings or visit ([www.pinkdog-creative.com](http://www.pinkdog-creative.com)).