

Davidson College in Davidson, NC, Features Works by Auguste Rodin

Davidson College in Davidson, NC, will present, *Auguste Rodin: Truth Form Life, Selections from the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Collections*, on view in the Van Every/Smith Galleries, from Jan. 23 through Apr. 5, 2020. A reception and a lecture will be offered on Jan. 23, from 7-8:30pm.

To open the exhibition, join us for a lecture, from 6-7pm, by Jennifer Thompson, The Gloria and Jack Drosdick Curator of European Painting & Sculpture & Curator of the John G. Johnson Collection, Philadelphia Art Museum. After the lecture, join us for a reception from 7-8:30pm at the Van Every/Smith Galleries in the Katherine and Tom Belk Visual Art Center. A small catalogue accompanies the exhibition.

Auguste Rodin: Truth Form Life/Selections from the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Collections presents 22 of Rodin's bronze sculptures, molded between 1860 and 1910. Two works in particular - *Jean d'Aire*, *Second Maquette* and *Monumental Head of Jean d'Aire* - speak to the college's permanent art collection, specifically our first large-scale public sculpture, Rodin's *Jean d'Aire Nude*. This work was gifted to the college by the Pepper Family on the occasion of the dedication of the Katherine and Tom Belk Visual Art Center in 1993.

By the early 20th century, Rodin was regarded as the foremost European sculptor since Michelangelo. Rodin rejected 19th-century academic traditions that dictated what was "proper" in art, resulting in new perspectives and broadened visions for artistic creation. Working in clay, plaster, marble, and bronze Rodin responded to his subjects in an effort to depict truth and vitality - of form, movement, emotion, and spirit. One of the first artists to embrace fragments as complete works of art, Rodin is today acknowledged for his role in ushering sculpture into the modern era.

The works on view include preparatory studies for some of Rodin's most acclaimed works, including public commissions such as *The Burghers of Calais* and *The Gates of Hell*, as well as portraits of important French authors Victor Hugo and Honoré de Balzac.



Auguste Rodin, French, 1840 – 1917, "Large Hand of a Pianist" modeled 1885; Musée Rodin cast 9 in 1969, bronze; Georges Rudier Foundry, lent by Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation

The story goes that in 1945, just out of the Army, the young B. Gerald Cantor wandered into the Metropolitan Museum of Art and encountered Auguste Rodin's marble sculpture *The Hand of God*. He was captivated. Eighteen months later he bought his first Rodin, a bronze version of the marble he had fallen in love with at the Met. It cost him the equivalent of two months' rent for his modest apartment. Thus began what Bernie Cantor called his magnificent obsession with the sculpture of Rodin, which continued throughout his life.

Between 1945 and the early 1990s, Bernie Cantor (1916-1996) and his wife, Iris, created the world's largest and most comprehensive private collection of works by Rodin. Concentrating on quality and significance, they collected nearly 750



Auguste Rodin, French, 1840 – 1917, "Heroic Bust of Victor Hugo" modeled 1890-97 or 1901-02; Musée Rodin cast 7 in 1981, bronze; Coubertin Foundry, lent by Iris Cantor

sculptures, drawings, prints, photographs, and documents. Bernie Cantor said he was obsessed by the feeling of strength, power, and sensuality he found in Rodin's work. He was passionate not only about owning and understanding the work, but sharing it as well. Over the years more than 500 works of art from the Cantor Collection have been donated to more than 100 museums, including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the North Carolina Museum of Art, the Brooklyn Museum of Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Center for Visual Arts at Stanford University, as well as numerous other college museums and galleries.

In part because of Bernie and Iris Cantor's commitment to Rodin sculpture, work by this renowned artist continues to enjoy wide public admiration and scholarly attention.

The Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation promotes and recognizes excellence in the arts and enhances cultural life internationally through its support for art exhibitions and scholarship and for the endowment of galleries and sculpture gardens at major museums. Most unusual for a philanthropic foundation, the Cantor Foundation also owns this significant collection of Rodin sculpture. During the last four decades it has loaned individual works and entire exhibitions to museums in more than 160 cities in Australia, Canada, Japan, Singapore, and the United States. Nearly eleven million people have seen these shows.

The Cantor Foundation is chaired by its president, Iris Cantor, and is based in Los Angeles. *Auguste Rodin: Truth Form Life* was organized by Judith Sobol, the Foundation's Curator of Collections and Exhibitions.

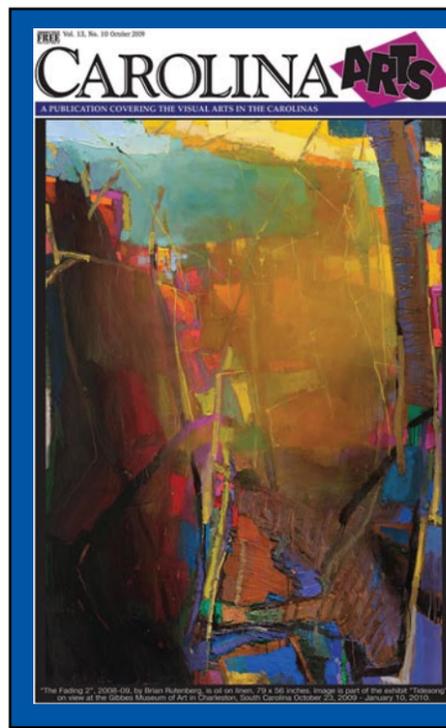
Exhibitions, programming, and catalogue made possible by the support of the Herb Jackson and Laura Grosch Gallery Endowment, Malu Alvarez '02, and Davidson College Friends of the Arts.

Also on view in the Smith Gallery, from Jan. 31 through Apr. 26, 2020, will be the *Senior Studio Art Majors '20*, exhibitions. Senior Studio Art Majors will present solo exhibitions in the Smith Gallery throughout the Spring semester, including: Rebecca Pempek, Lindsey Owen, Coco Peng, Jared McElveen, Ella Sams, Allison Hoerler, Addie Clark, Helen Duffy, Makayla Binter, and Maura Tangum.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the galleries at 704/894-2519 or visit (www.davidson-collegeartgalleries.org).

creates a dynamic conversation between the work of two artists who are pushing media and mindset to explore real issues of contemporary life. *Adorned* is curated by visiting curator Jonell Logan for Mc-

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Coll Center for Art + Innovation.

Bey and Gay find power in adornment - African-inspired masks, richly textured backgrounds, and large-scale clay and glass necklaces - to reclaim history, mark rites of passage, and explore contemporary life. The exhibition includes a site-specific installation by Gay, partially in response to the colossal and almost totemic glass and ceramic "adornments" created by Bey.

McColl Center alumnus artist Sharif Bey (2007) is an associate professor of art at Syracuse University. Bey earned a BFA in ceramics from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, an MFA in studio art from the University of North Carolina, and a PhD in art education from Penn State University. He is a teaching artist with extensive experience in ceramics, sculpture, art community programming, and art teacher training.

Bey continues to conduct workshops and facilitates collaborations in the visual arts for children and adults in schools, museums, arts centers, and universities throughout the United States and abroad. In addition to being an active teacher and scholar, he is a prolific studio artist who exhibits his ceramic works internationally. In 2010, the United States "Arts in the Embassies" program commissioned Bey to create one of his large-scale conceptual bead installations for the US embassy in Khartoum, Sudan. Bey completed an additional project, in 2018, for the new US embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Shanequa Gay's work evaluates place, tradition, storytelling, and subject matter to develop imaginative dialogues and alterna-



Shanequa Gay, *Healing Circle* (Triptych), 2019. Mixed media on wood panel; 108 x 49 inches. Courtesy of the artist.

tive strategies for self-imaging. Through installations, paintings, performance, video, and monumental sculptural figures, she is fabricating environments of ritual and memorial, depicting amalgamated images of familiar iconography, new gods, and mythical figures whose lives have been impacted by systemic inequalities. By developing counter and re-imagined narratives that live within the duality of physical and spiritual worlds, she is exploring the historical and contemporary social concerns of hybrid cultures, through the gaze of the female progenitor, and how these cultures have often been rendered invisible and their identities denied.

Gay, an Atlanta, GA, native, received her AA in graphic design and fashion marketing from the Art Institute of Atlanta (1999), a BA in painting (summa cum laude, 2015) from Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), and currently an MFA candidate at Georgia State University.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 704/332-5535 or visit (www.mccollcenter.org).

McColl Center Features Works by Sharif Bey and Shanequa Gay

The McColl Center for Art + Innovation in Charlotte, NC, will present *Adorned*, featuring works by McColl Center alumnus artist Sharif Bey (2007) and artist Shanequa Gay, on view from Jan. 23 through May 2, 2020. The exhibition Page 12 - Carolina Arts, January 2020

Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, NC, Features Works by Richard Elaver and Allison Tierney

Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, NC, will present two new exhibits including: *Structure and Void*, featuring works by Richard Elaver, on view in the Overcash Art Gallery, from Jan. 13

through Mar. 12, 2020, with a reception to be held on Jan. 30, from 5:30-7:30pm, and *I Am My Things and My Things Are Me*, featuring works by Allison Tierney,

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