

Columbia Museum of Art in Columbia, SC, Features Works by Sergio Hudson

The Columbia Museum of Art in Columbia, SC, is presenting *Sergio Hudson: Focused on the Fit*, an exhibition showcasing the work of iconic fashion designer and Midlands native Sergio Hudson, on view through June 30, 2024.

Organized by the CMA in partnership with Sergio Hudson Collections, LLC and community curator Megan Pinckney Rutherford, this exhibition showcases the remarkable moments of a designer who fell in love with fashion at 4 years old while living in Ridgeway, SC, and has become one of the biggest names in the industry today.

"Many things are happening in my life that I could only dream of — this exhibition at the CMA is one of them," says Hudson. "I feel very lucky, and I hope my story can inspire other young men in South Carolina to believe in themselves and follow their passion."

"We are honored Sergio Hudson is sharing his story and craft in his home state museum," says CMA Executive Director Della Watkins. "Visitors will feel his extraordinary sense of glamorous style and passionate enthusiasm for making women feel confident and fabulous. This ascending artist is signature South Carolina special!"

Born and raised in Ridgeway, Hudson has always taken inspiration from the strong women in his life, particularly his mother, Sheldon Hudson, who exposed him to sewing and fashion design. Since launching his first eponymous label in 2014, his fresh perspective on luxury American sportswear has taken the fashion world by storm. Hudson's high-profile clients include Michelle Obama, Beyoncé, Serena Williams, Jessica Alba, Blake Lively, Rihanna, Kamala Harris, Kendall Jenner, Issa Rae, Jessica Chastain, Rachel Brosnahan, and Keke Palmer, a close friend whom he has called a muse.

"Sergio is an example of what it means to ignite a passion and never let go of the dream. *Focused on the Fit* is not only a show about fashion, but also a story of how one makes their mark in the world," says CMA Director of Art and Learning Jackie Adams. "We are so proud to present Sergio's work, and we hope this show will inspire and educate visitors about a creative visionary driven to make a difference in how we choose to show up in the world through fashion."

Hudson's philosophy is that fashion should be for everyone and include everyone. He designs to empower the wearer and often includes a nod to the '90s of his youth. Exploring his journey from the early days winning Bravo's *Styled to Rock* in 2013 up through the present day, *Focused on the Fit* features nearly 50 works - some 38 illustrations alongside 10 signature garments from key moments in Hudson's revolutionary career, including Keke Palmer's stunning ensemble from the 2023 Met Gala, Megan Rapinoe's star-spangled suit from the 2021 Met Gala, a suit ensemble worn by Beyoncé in 2019, and a custom suit made for Issa Rae in 2018. Visitors get an opportunity to see the creativity and teamwork behind the building of a brand from concept to craft to collection in a holistic look at the design process.

"As a lifelong lover of fashion, I am thrilled to be the community curator behind this exhibition showcasing the incredible work of my dear friend, Sergio Hudson, a successful Black fashion designer that was born and bred right here in the Midlands and is well on his way to becoming the next iconic American designer," says Rutherford. "I am honored to get to share his story with a community that inspired and supported him, and also with the next generation that I'm sure will be inspired by his familiar beginnings."

Sergio Hudson: Focused on the Fit overlaps with newly opened exhibition *Lee Alexander McQueen & Ann Ray: Rendez-Vous*, providing museumgoers two iconic fashion exhibitions to experience this fall and holiday season.

This exhibition is organized by the Columbia Museum of Art, SC, in partnership with Sergio Hudson Collections, LLC and Community Curator Megan Pinckney



Justin Gloston for Sergio Hudson. Illustration, custom gown and cape ensemble for Keke Palmer's Met Gala look, 2023. Ink and marker on paper. Courtesy of SH Collections. Photo credit: Drew Baron / The Columbia Museum of Art.

Rutherford. Bronze Sponsors: First Citizens Bank; Dr. Suzanne R. Thorpe and Dr. John W. Baynes. Patron Sponsors: Gina Trippi and John Kerr; Barbara B. Boyd; Friends of African American Art & Culture. Friend Sponsors: Hotel Trundle. Grantors: City of Columbia; Experience Columbia SC; Richland County Government; South Carolina Arts Commission; Discover South Carolina; and a grant from the Coastal Community Foundation at the request of CMA member Bonnie Adams Kapp.

A Charleston native, Megan Pinckney left the Lowcountry to attend the University of South Carolina where she earned a degree in fashion merchandising. She began developing her social media skills during her reign as Miss South Carolina USA when she was tasked with managing the title's account across several platforms. Since then, she's developed Shades of Pinck, a lifestyle brand + online moniker that serves as a lady's guide for styling yourself, your home + your travels. She believes in champagne for breakfast, that pink is a neutral, and that life is only what you make it! When Pinckney isn't creating digital content for local + national brands, she's supporting the arts community of South Carolina, encouraging her generation to become more involved in local politics, cheering on her beloved Gamecocks at Williams-Brice Stadium, and spending time with her 2-year-old son, Teagan.

The Columbia Museum of Art is a charitable nonprofit organization dedicated to lifelong learning and community enrichment for all. Located in the heart of downtown Columbia, SC, the CMA ranks among the leading art institutions in the country and is distinguished by its innovative exhibitions and creative educational programs. At the heart of the CMA and its programs is its collection, which encompasses 7,000 works and spans 5,000 years of art history. Established in 1950, the CMA now welcomes more than 150,000 visitors annually and is a catalyst for community creativity and education, engaging people of all ages and backgrounds. It is the recipient of a National Medal from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a National Art Education Association award for its contributions to arts education, a National Park Foundation Award, and two Governor's Awards for the Arts for outstanding contributions to the arts in South Carolina. In order to serve even more audiences, the CMA underwent a transformation. Funded by a successful capital campaign, the two-year renovation project garnered new collection galleries with a progressive thematic layout, new studios for artmaking, cutting-edge program and event spaces, and an entrance on Main Street. Overall, more than 15,000 square feet of functional space were added to the building's existing footprint.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or visit (www.columbiamuseum.org).



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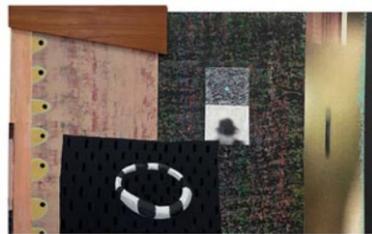
Mike Brown Contemporary in Columbia, SC, Features Works by Mark Flowers



Work by Mark Flowers

The Mike Brown Contemporary in Columbia, SC, is presenting *Mark Flowers - Baltimore Lessons*, on view through Dec. 21, 2023. Mark Flowers In Conversation will be held on Dec. 2, from 1-2:30pm.

In March of 2021, while visiting Baltimore, MD, Flowers rode a commuter train from downtown out to the suburbs and back. He recorded still images from the window as the train moved. The series of forms in motion and spontaneous imagery are the foundation of this new work.



Work by Mark Flowers

The objects in this exhibition are moving tributes to the inspiration borne of these moments. The vibrant, graphic mixed media works open nonlinear narratives that capture Flowers' unique form of storytelling. The irregularly shaped mixed media works are what Flowers calls visual jazz. There is an improvisational feeling steeped in a marriage of form, pattern and gesture. He paints, attaches pieces of wood, photographic transfers of his own and found images.

Of the work Flowers states, "I am more self-assured from the many years of creating work. I now depend more on my experience and trust my instincts. I have reached a point where I can improvise and challenge the rules I made up in previous work. This new open strategy presents me with greater challenges, which has energized the studio environment. Every artist wants to evolve, and I believe this is another opportunity."

Mark E. Flowers earned his BFA in Studio Arts from The University of South Carolina in 1977 and his MFA in Painting from Western Michigan University in 1979. He has exhibited his work throughout the United States and in Europe. Flowers's work can be found in 28 public and over 350 private collections. Throughout his career he has won numerous awards for his art in both regional and national competitions. In 1980, just out of graduate school, he was awarded the South Carolina Artist Fellowship Award. In 2003, he was named one of 100 Art Notable Alumni for the Centennial Celebration at Western Michigan University. Most recently, he was awarded a residency at the Golden Foundation in New Berlin, NY. He has taught art at the secondary and college levels for 42 years. He retired from teaching in 2019.

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 803/446-3399 or visit (www.mikebrowncontemporary.com).