

ACKLANDARTMUSEUM

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For immediate release

Ackland Art Museum to Open Retail Space in Downtown Chapel Hill *Renovations of long-vacant corner space are underway*

Chapel Hill, NC – The Ackland Art Museum at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will open the Ackland Museum Store this spring. Renovation has begun in the store's future space, at 100 East Franklin Street, in downtown Chapel Hill. The Museum expects to occupy the space by mid- to late April 2011 and open the store to business in early May 2011.

Located on the corner of Columbia and Franklin Streets, the Ackland Museum Store will have a focused emphasis on merchandise that supports and reflects the Museum's core mission and complements the offerings of existing retail establishments.

The Ackland Museum Store will carry an inventory of products related to the Ackland's permanent collection and changing exhibitions, including home wares such as pottery, glass, and metalwork; jewelry, textiles, and accessories; children's toys and books; and stationery including note cards and postcards of significant works in the Ackland's collection. It will also offer books about art history and criticism, contemporary art and design, artists' monographs, and culture and lifestyles, as well as books by UNC and regional authors.

A dedicated gallery space will feature rotating exhibitions of original artworks in a variety of media by local and regional artists and artisans.

All proceeds from the store will support the Ackland's exhibition and education programs.

"We hope that the Museum Store will heighten our visibility and provide an additional 'gateway' to the Ackland, both for local residents and out-of-town visitors," says Emily Kass, director of the Ackland Art Museum. "We are excited about the opportunity to work with local merchants and other cultural institutions to raise the profile of Chapel Hill as a cultural and retail destination."

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The Ackland Art Museum

The Ackland Art Museum is located on the historic campus of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The Ackland's holdings consist of more than 16,000 works of art, featuring significant collections of European masterworks, twentieth-century and contemporary art, African art, North Carolina pottery, and folk art. In addition, the Ackland has North Carolina's premier collections of Asian art and works on paper (drawings, prints, and photographs). As an academic unit of the University, the Ackland serves broad local, state, and national constituencies.

Hours and Admission

The Ackland is open Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM; Thursday 10 AM – 8 PM; and Sunday 1 PM – 5 PM. Admission to the Museum is always free, with donations accepted.

Location and Parking

The Ackland Art Museum is located at 101 South Columbia Street, near the corner of East Franklin Street, in downtown Chapel Hill. Parking is available at several nearby municipal and private parking decks, and at meters on Franklin Street. Most Chapel Hill Transit buses (free) provide service to downtown Chapel Hill. More information is available at 919.966.5736 or www.ackland.org.

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