

ACKLANDARTMUSEUM

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UNC's Ackland Art Museum Receives National Endowment for the Arts Grant

Grant to support exhibition of works by Ronald Lockett

Chapel Hill, NC — National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Chairman Jane Chu announced today that the Ackland Art Museum at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is one of 919 nonprofit organizations nationwide to receive an NEA Art Works grant.

The Ackland Art Museum is recommended for a \$20,000 grant to support an exhibition of works by Ronald Lockett (1965-1998) to be held in 2016.

From the mid-1980s until his death from AIDS-related pneumonia, Ronald Lockett created over 200 works of art—from small sculptures and paintings on found objects to richly textured compositions, from quilts and “yard shows” to studio paintings. Entirely self-taught, his art addressed struggle, survival, and injustice in contexts that ranged from the autobiographical to the grandly historical. Born after the height of the Civil Rights era, Lockett freely mixed artistic vocabularies and influences gleaned from disparate sources, ranging from family histories, lore, and street talk to those almost universally shared by contemporary artists, including television and art historical imagery which he saw at the public library in Bessemer, Alabama, where he lived his entire life.

Organized by the Ackland, the exhibition will travel to three other venues. It will be accompanied by a companion volume of essays, edited by guest curator Bernard L. Herman, George B. Tindall Distinguished Professor of American Studies and Folklore, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

NEA Chairman Jane Chu said, “I’m pleased to be able to share the news of our support through Art Works including the award to the Ackland Art Museum. The arts foster value, connection, creativity and innovation for the American people and these recommended grants demonstrate those attributes and affirm that the arts are part of our everyday lives.”

“The Ackland is honored to be recommended for this grant in support of our important and pioneering project to organize the first overview exhibition of works by a significant American artist,” commented Peter Nisbet, Interim Director and Chief Curator. “We look forward to sharing our appreciation and understanding of Lockett’s powerful creativity with the people of North Carolina and audiences elsewhere. We are grateful to the NEA for this endorsement.”

Art Works grants support the creation of art, public engagement with art, lifelong learning in the arts, and enhancement of the livability of communities through the arts. The NEA received 1,474 eligible applications under the Art Works category, requesting more than \$75 million in funding. Of those applications, 919 are recommended for grants for a total of \$26.6 million.

For a complete listing of projects recommended for Art Works grant support, please visit the NEA website at arts.gov. Follow the conversation about this and other NEA-funded projects on Twitter at [#NEAFall2014](https://twitter.com/NEAFall2014).

Located on the historic campus of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the Ackland Art Museum's holdings consist of more than 17,000 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.

For more information about the Ackland Art Museum, please visit ackland.org.

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