

ACKLANDARTMUSEUM

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

EXHIBITION SCHEDULE through Spring 2019

Dates and exhibition titles are subject to change.

Becoming a Woman in the Age of Enlightenment: French Art from The Horvitz Collection

Through April 8, 2018

“As digestible as the curation of “Becoming a Woman” is, the exhibit portrays the Enlightenment as a tumultuous time as seen through the complex and varied roles of women.” – [The Indy Week](#)

Eighteenth-century France was, at once, the crucible for some of the most elegant art ever made and a hotbed of philosophical reflection on major cultural issues. Against a backdrop of powerful conventional thinking that assigned women to limited roles based on presumed biological dictates, some voices began arguing for a view of woman as the equal of man in intelligence, creativity, and power.

With 137 paintings, sculptures, and drawings selected from one of the world’s best private collections of French art, *Becoming a Woman* shows for the first time how Enlightenment artists explored all sides of “the woman question,” from stunning portrayals of refined young women to mythological scenes of despicable females, from touching images of romance to respectful presentations of maturity and old age.

Religion and Ritual

Through May 13, 2018

Asia is the birthplace of many of the world’s major systems of belief, and reflects the religious diversity of the planet. This installation presents the deities and artistic traditions of the world’s most populous continent, representing Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, and more.

Versus: Selected Works by the MFA Class of 2018

April 20, 2018 – May 13, 2018

Responding to the prompt of “versus,” graduating Masters of Fine Arts students at UNC-Chapel Hill provide works that explore combative tensions. Some employ content to examine ideological struggles, such as the battles of nostalgia against the actualities of the past, or of idealistic hopes against the stark truths of reality. For others, tensions lie in their very processes, such as investigating the effects of combining varied approaches to mark-making or of contrasting discordant materials.

ACKLANDARTMUSEUM

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

The Outwin: American Portraiture Today

June 1, 2018 – August 26, 2018

Every three years, the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery invites artists to participate in the most prestigious portrait contest in the country: the juried Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition. In 2016, its fourth iteration, jurors selected 43 winning works from more than 2,500 entries. First prize was awarded to artist Amy Sherald, most recently in the news as the artist who painted former First Lady Michelle Obama's official portrait. The Ackland Art Museum is honored to host *The Outwin: American Portraiture Today* as the exhibition's final venue on its tour.

This exhibition has been organized by the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery, Washington, D.C. The competition and exhibition have been made possible by generous support from the Virginia Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition Endowment.

Patrick Dougherty: *Step Right Up*

Ongoing

The Ackland Art Museum has commissioned its first major site-specific, outdoor art installation in nearly 20 years: a "stickwork" by Chapel Hill-based artist Patrick Dougherty entitled *Step Right Up*. The large-scale piece—comprised of five individual stickwork sculptures—was constructed entirely of tree saplings and is on view at the entrance of the Ackland Art Museum.

In creating *Step Right Up*, Dougherty was inspired by an ancient, zoomorphic pouring vessel on view in the Ackland's galleries.

The work follows on the heels the installation of *Los Trompos* in front of the Ackland, and similarly activates the Museum's outdoor public space. Visitors are invited to go inside each vessel. The tree saplings—primarily maple and gum—used to make the piece were responsibly harvested from Duke Forest and Triangle Land Conservancy, organizations with which Patrick Dougherty has long relationships.

Birthday Presents

September 21, 2018 – January 6, 2019

This exhibition will present significant works of art that have been given to the Ackland in honor of the Museum's 60th anniversary. We will mark this milestone in our history by displaying these newly acquired works that will inspire and delight future generations for the next 60 years and beyond.

ACKLANDARTMUSEUM

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

The Beautiful Brain: The Drawings of Santiago Ramón y Cajal

January 27, 2019 – April 7, 2019

“The Beautiful Brain: The Drawings of Santiago Ramón y Cajal [is] one of the most unusual, ravishing exhibitions of the season.” – New York Times

At the crossroads of art and science, *The Beautiful Brain* presents Nobel Laureate Santiago Ramón y Cajal’s groundbreaking contributions to neuroscience through his aesthetically astonishing drawings of brain anatomy. Cajal (1852–1934), the father of modern neuroscience, was an exceptional artist who devoted his life to studying the anatomy of the brain; his drawings are as complex and mysterious as the human organ itself. The first museum exhibition to feature these amazing objects within their historic context, *The Beautiful Brain* presents 80 original drawings by Cajal lent by the Cajal Institute in Madrid, Spain.

Focus on the Peck Collection

Ongoing

In January 2017, the Ackland Art Museum received its largest gift to date when Sheldon Peck (UNC-Chapel Hill, BS ’63, DDS ’66) and his wife Leena donated their extraordinary collection of 134 mostly 17th-century Dutch and Flemish master drawings, as well as significant funds for the stewardship of the collection, new acquisitions, and an endowed curatorial position in European and American art before 1950. *Focus on the Peck Collection* is an ongoing series of installations selected from the Peck Collection and the Ackland’s other holdings of related works of art, with the goal of supporting education in comparative looking, historical analysis, and appreciation of quality.

###

About the Ackland Art Museum

Featuring a year-round calendar of special exhibitions and dynamic public programs, the Ackland Art Museum is UNC-Chapel Hill’s local museum with a global outlook. Our location and programs bridge campus and community. We’re free, open, and accessible to all. The Ackland’s holdings consist of more than 18,000 works of art. The collection spans all cultures and time periods, showcasing the breadth of human creativity. We are a vital teaching resource that puts the art of understanding at the heart of what we do. We empower you to get close to art – the familiar, the unexpected, the challenging – and connect with the complexity and beauty of the wider world.

The Ackland Art Museum is located at 101 South Columbia Street, just south of Franklin Street, on the UNC-Chapel Hill campus. Museum hours are Wednesday through Saturday 10 AM-5 PM, and Sundays 1 PM-5 PM. The Museum is open until 9 PM for Chapel Hill-Carrboro’s 2nd Friday ArtWalk. More information is available at ackland.org.