

Columbia Museum of Art in Columbia, SC, Offers Works by 20th-Century Women Artists

The Columbia Museum of Art in Columbia, SC, is presenting an exhibition of works by 20th-century women artists with ties to the South, entitled, *Our Own Work, Our Own Way: Ascendant Women Artists in the Johnson Collection*, on view through May 21, 2023.

Presented by the Johnson Collection, of Spartanburg, SC, the exhibition brings together 42 female artists of the 20th century who had connections to the South - including Emma Amos, Beverly Buchanan, Elaine de Kooning, Zelda Fitzgerald, Gwendolyn Knight, and Columbia's own Laura Spong - while shining a spotlight on several other regional artists.

"This exhibition allows us to consider the artistic innovations of the 20th century - from Cubist-inspired still lifes to fully abstract and conceptual works - through the unique lens of women artists with ties to our region," says CMA Curator Michael Neumeister.

Our Own Work, Our Own Way presents a window onto the artistic developments of the 20th century, shown from the vantage of women artists with ties to the South. These artists routinely encountered resistance in their quest to gain parity, especially when their mode of expression was distinctly modern in style or subject, and many are just beginning to receive critical attention. Furthermore, contemporary female artists of color faced what Lois Mailou Jones, also featured in the exhibition, termed the "double handicap" of racism and sexism. Like their sisters to the north, these Southern women often worked alongside, but in the shadows of, their more celebrated male counterparts, despite the commonalities - dynamic brushwork, bold color, and abstract imagery - of their canvases.

Comprised of artwork from the 1930s to the 1990s, *Our Own Work, Our Own Way* champions a roster of artists whose aesthetic achievements transcended convention and invigorated the South's modern milieu: Anni Albers, Emma Amos, McDonald Bane, Nell Blaine, Dusti Bongé, Beverly Buchanan, Selma Burke, Margaret Burroughs, Mary Callery, Josephine Couper, Elaine de Kooning, Jeanet Dreskin, Jeanet Dreskin-Haig, Caroline Durieux, Zelda Fitzgerald, Maud Gatewood, Judith Godwin, Anne Goldthwaite, Lee Hall, Fannie Hillsmith, Marie Hull, Valerie Jaudon, Elizabeth Jennerjahn, Lois Mailou Jones, Karen Karnes, Gina Knee, Gwendolyn Knight, Dorothy Kohlhepp, Adele Lemm, Edith London, Corrie McCallum, Augusta Oelschig, Pat Passlof, Mavis Pusey, Jo Sandman, Gladys Smith, Laura Spong, Anna Heyward Taylor, Grace Taylor, Alma Thomas, Mary Thomas, and Susan Weil. These artists pushed boundaries not only in terms of their gender, but also the artistic styles in which they worked.

Hailed by *The Magazine Antiques* for having staged a "quiet art historical revolution" and expanding "the meaning of regional" through its "exhibitions, loans, publications, and institutional partnerships," the Johnson Collection seeks to illuminate the rich history and diverse cultures of the American South. With holdings that offer an extensive survey of artistic activity from the late 18th century to the present day, the collection works to advance interest in the dynamic role that the art of the South plays in the larger context of American art and to



Alma Thomas (1891-1978), "Blue Ground Stripe", 1971. Acrylic and watercolor on paper, 22 1/2 x 29 7/8 inches. The Johnson Collection, Spartanburg, SC.

contribute to the canon of art historical literature. Founded in 2002 as a private collection for public good, the Johnson Collection is located in Spartanburg, South.

"It's an honor to have *Our Own Work, Our Own Way* so beautifully installed at the Columbia Museum of Art," says Carter Johnson, co-curator of the exhibition and daughter-in-law of the collection's owners. "The artists in this exhibition, both familiar and new, provide an important reminder of the essential, but often overlooked, role of women artists in the tapestry of American Art."

Our Own Work, Our Own Way: Ascendant Women Artists in the Johnson Collection is presented by the Johnson Collection. Contributing Sponsor: Prisma Health. Friend Sponsors: Barbara B. Boyd; Dr. and Mrs. Benjamin M. Gimarc; Brenda Wheeler; Burnette Shutt & McDaniel, PA. Patron Sponsors: Bill Schmidt; Beth and Matthew Richardson. Grantors: City of Columbia; Richland County Government; South Carolina Arts Commission; South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism.

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 (columbiamuseum.org).



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Appalachian State University in Boone, NC, Offers New Exhibitions

Appalachian State University in Boone, NC, is presenting several new exhibitions on view at the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts, beginning with *Altered Environments / Tidalectics: April Flanders*, Guest Curator, on view in Gallery B, through May 6, 2023. Dec 2, 2022 - May 6, 2023

Altered Environments, curated by April Flanders, is a printmaking portfolio responding to the issue of marine bioinvasions. The portfolio includes 23 national

and international artists from diverse backgrounds, utilizing a wide range of styles and print techniques. Marine bioinvasions are the conceptual starting place for these prints, which will be prominently exhibited at the 11th International Marine Bioinvasions Conference in Annapolis, MD in 2023. Aquatic invasive species are a true threat to biodiversity around the world. Artists were encouraged to consider the many

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