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David Smith, Jackson Pollock, Elizabeth Catlett, Louise Nevelson, Gordon Parks, Sol LeWitt, Robert Mangold, Cindy Sherman, Adrian Piper, Betye Saar, Amy Silman, Nick Cave, Jennifer Steinkamp, and Sanford Biggers. The museum regularly

lends to major exhibitions nationally and internationally.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 336/334-5770, or visit (<https://weatherspoonart.org/>).

Reynolda House Museum of American Art in Winston-Salem, NC, Exhibit Focused on Reynolds Family History

The Reynolda House Museum of American Art in Winston-Salem, NC, will present *Smith & Libby: Two Rings, Seven Months, One Bullet*, on view in the Mary and Charlie Babcock Wing Gallery, from Sept. 8 through Dec. 31, 2023.

Like most family homes, Reynolda House witnessed its share of tragedies, none more shocking than the death by gunshot of Zachary Smith (“Smith”) Reynolds, youngest child of R.J. and Katharine Smith Reynolds. Soon after midnight on July 6, 1932, Smith was shot on a sleeping porch at the family’s country estate. It was a brood year for cicadas in the Southern Appalachians, so the bullet of a Mauser pistol was heard only as a muffled pop by the night watchman. It was heard by Smith’s wife, Broadway star Libby Holman, who was with her husband on the porch. And it was heard by Smith’s childhood friend and secretary Albert “Ab” Walker, although exactly where Walker was at the time of the shooting is shrouded in mystery.

Smith died later that morning. Subsequent investigations made national news in the summer and fall of 1932 and led to a charge of first-degree murder for Libby Holman, with Walker named as accomplice. Then, in a stunning reversal, the case was dropped before coming to a trial that might have led to the death penalty. To this day, it is not known whether Smith Reynolds, twenty-year-old heir and renowned aviator, died by suicide, accident, or murder.



Libby Holman and Zachary Smith Reynolds on Honeymoon in Hong Kong, 1932. Courtesy of the Liam Donnelly Archive.

This exhibition, curated by Betsy Main Babcock Deputy Director of Reynolda House Museum of American Art Phil Archer, presents archival objects, news articles, and other primary sources to lay bare the mystery in all its fascinating complexity. There is more than one way for a house to be haunted, and this story has hung over Reynolda for ninety years, at once the most tragic and infamous day in its history. *Smith & Libby* draws back the curtain on an event that shocked the nation and echoed down the generations, still inspiring speculation and curiosity in visitors of all ages today.

“After 91 years, it is time for Reynolda to draw back the curtain on an event that was at once the most tragic and titillating in its history,” said Phil Archer, Betsy Main Babcock Deputy Director at Reynolda and curator of this exhibition. “Visitors have long asked about this mystery, and the intent with this exhibition is to share what we



Smith Reynolds with biplane, circa 1928. Reynolda House Archives

know as well as what we continue to find puzzling.”

Among the items on display will be photographs and letters from Reynolda’s archives; a newly digitized newsreel from Hearst Metrotone News that was seen coast-to-coast prior to Hollywood movies in the summer of 1932; original news service photographs used by newspapers across the United States; oral histories about the case from people that knew Smith Reynolds personally, including his sister Nancy and employees of Reynolda; an animated film going minute-by-minute through the night of the shooting, produced by Out of Our Minds Animation Studios (outofourmindsstudios.com), a Winston-Salem company; and a sketch of the murder scene made by the local sheriff at the time.

In addition, posters, programs and other memorabilia from Libby Holman’s theatrical and musical career as well as a replica of a gown made famous by Holman in a musical by Vincent Youmans and Oscar Hammerstein II will be on display. The gown was created by Jenna Sais Quoi LLC, an atelier located in Winston-Salem focused on custom apparel, costumes, dancewear and limited-edition collections. Jenna Sais Quoi (jsqdesigns.com/home) was founded by Jenna Anderson, a graduate of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA) School of Design and Production.

Reynolda is set on 170 acres in Winston-Salem, N.C. and comprises Reynolda House Museum of American Art, Reynolda Gardens and Reynolda Village Shops and Restaurants. The Museum presents a renowned art collection in a historic and incomparable setting: the original 1917 interiors of Katharine and R. J. Reynolds’s 34,000-square-foot home. Its collection is a chronology of American art and featured exhibitions are offered in the Museum’s Babcock Wing Gallery and historic house bedrooms. The Gardens serve as a 134-acre outdoor horticultural oasis open to the public year-round, complete with colorful formal gardens, nature trails and a greenhouse. In the Village, the estate’s historic buildings are now home to a vibrant mix of boutiques, restaurants, shops and services. Plan your visit at (reynolda.org) and use the free mobile app, *Reynolda Revealed*, to self-tour the estate.

For more info check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 336/725-5325 or visit (<https://reynolda.org/>).

Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art in Winston-Salem, NC, Offers Exhibition on Murals

The Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA) in Winston-Salem, NC, will present *If These Walls Could Talk*, an exhibition of site-specific mural installations by William Downs, Neka King, and Raj Bunnag, on view from Sept. 21 through Dec. 31, 2023, in SECCA’s Potter Gallery. An opening reception with the artists and curator Maya Brooks will be held Sept. 21, from 6-8pm.

For centuries, murals served as visual representations of complex social and political commentary in accessible spaces. Creatives placed their work on public structures, in civic centers, among other prominent areas, to communicate relevant critiques of everyday life. This documentation of contemporary issues connected individual experiences across race, gender, and religion, providing a tangible record of shared existence.

If These Walls Could Talk upholds the relationship between mural art and public institutions with site-specific works by Durham, NC-based artist Raj Bunnag and Atlanta, GA-based artists William Downs and Neka King. Each of these artists engages graphic techniques that range from line drawing to printmaking, paralleling traditional mural applications that require affixing materials directly onto a wall. Ultimately, their stylized depictions of people and landscapes envelop viewers in an illustrative social analysis of present and sometimes future concepts.

If These Walls Could Talk also marks the Winston-Salem curatorial debut of Maya Brooks, the assistant curator of contemporary art serving both SECCA and the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh. “I am most excited about this exhibition because it builds upon a long-standing human tradition of sharing ideas and building communities through public expression,” said Brooks. “Although distinctly contemporary in style and focus, this exhibition feels timeless because of the artists’ ability to reference the different layers of history that have altered our present and, possibly, our future experiences.”

Neka King is an illustrator and muralist who contrasts minimalism with bold patterns to create energetic compositions across digital platforms, print-based media, and physical sites. King’s installations often relate to her experiences across intersecting identities, which guide her creative practices and installation projects. King received her BFA in Studio Arts with a concentration in Textile Arts from the Ernest G. Welch School of Art and Design

at Georgia State University in 2016. She has worked extensively with public and private partners, collaborating on projects with corporations like Nike, H&M, Refinery29, and AT&T at Mercedes Benz Stadium.

William Downs’ practice varies from drawing, painting, and printmaking to experimenting with installation and three-dimensional studies. The line is his current notable element, which he considers paradoxically fundamental and surreal based on its infinite capabilities. Downs received a Multidisciplinary MFA from the Mount Royal School of Art at the Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, and a BFA in Painting and Printmaking from the Atlanta College of Art and Design. Downs has exhibited at venues nationally and abroad, with institutions like The High Museum of Art, The Birmingham Museum of Art, and The Smithsonian Museum of Art collecting his work.

Raj Bunnag is a Thai American artist living and working in Durham, NC. His overarching art practice examines systematic racism inherent in American institutions and public policies. Bunnag received his MFA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2022 and his BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art in 2012. His work has been exhibited nationally and internationally at the SAC Gallery Bangkok, American University Dubai, CAM Raleigh, the Jewett Art Gallery at Wellesley College, The University of Wisconsin Parkside, and the Kai Lin Art Gallery.

The Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA), an affiliate of the North Carolina Museum of Art and division of the NC Department of Natural & Cultural Resources, offers a front row seat to the art of our time through exhibitions, experiences, and education programs with a focus on regional working artists. Founded in 1956 and located on the scenic James G. Hanes estate in Winston-Salem, SECCA offers unique large-scale indoor and outdoor settings for exploring the intersections of contemporary art and culture.

SECCA is located on Marguerite Drive in Winston-Salem. Recent exhibiting artists include Beverly McIver, Will Wilson, Kara Walker, Lonnie Holley, Elizabeth Alexander, Esteban Cabeza de Baca, Freeman Vines, Jillian Mayer, and Antoine Williams.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings or visit (SECCA.org).

Artworks Gallery in Winston-Salem, NC, Features Works by Kimberly Varnadoe and James Gemma

Artworks Gallery in Winston-Salem, NC, is presenting two new exhibitions including: *Contemplating the Elements*, featuring works by Kimberly Varnadoe and *Exploring the BOLD in Abstraction*, featuring works by James Gemma, both on view through Sept. 29, 2023. A reception and gallery talk will be held on Sept. 17, 2-4pm, the talk begins at 2:30pm. The gallery will be open for DADA First Friday Gallery Hop on Sept. 1, from 7-9pm and for an Art Crush on Sept. 21, from 7-10pm.

James Gemma’s, *Exploring the Bold in Abstraction*, showcases digitally created art prints on archival paper and inks, as well as acrylic paintings on wood panels. His work is contemporary in nature and explores unique combinations of strong colors and bold shapes to express his abstract conceptions. This work uses both hard edge and geometric approaches as well as a surprising diversion. This exhibition also includes two black and white prints, which express the ultimate in strong contrast.

After graduating with advanced degrees from The Ohio State University and careers as university professor and consumer



Work by Kimberly Varnadoe

research professional, Gemma studied art and printmaking at Salem College (under Kimberly Varnadoe), and at Wake Forest University. He also has participated in multiple art workshops at Penland, the Huntington Museum of Art, and the Sawtooth Center for Visual Art.

Gemma served four years as board member of Associated Artists of Winston

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