



## Asheville Art Museum - Audubon

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in Asheville, NC. The exhibition features more than 40 works and will be on display in the Explore Asheville Exhibition Hall through Nov. 30, 2020.

*A Telling Instinct: John James Audubon & Contemporary Art* was curated by former Associate Curator Cindy Buckner, with the assistance of Marilyn Laufer, director emerita of the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art on the campus of Auburn University. The exhibition first opened on Feb. 21, 2020, but the Museum closed its doors shortly after due to COVID-19.

Buckner believes visitors will be pleasantly surprised by the fantastical nature of many of the contemporary works in the exhibition. "The artists have taken their inspiration from the animal world but allowed their imaginations to really take over with the stories they are trying to tell."

The exhibition includes prints by John James Audubon from the private collection

of Bill & Peg Steiner, and recent works in diverse media by Minnie Adkins, Bo Bartlett, William Beckman, Beth Cavener, Walton Ford, Laurie Hogin, Evan Kafka, Pamela Earnshaw Kelly, Adonna Khare, Anne Lemanski, Kate MacDowell, Mark Messersmith, William Morris, Joel Sartore, Tom Uttech, and William Wegman.

The Museum would like to thank Bitsy & Jim Powell for their support of this exhibition.

The Asheville Art Museum's galleries, the Museum Store, and Perspective Café are open with limited capacity. Art PLAYce, our intergenerational makerspace, and the Frances Mulhall Achilles Art Research Library remain temporarily closed.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 828/253-3227 or visit ([www.ashevilleart.org](http://www.ashevilleart.org)).

profound and complicated narratives.

Two ways to view: Online visitors can register to attend a virtual tour of this exhibition. Tour is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 3, from 6-7pm. This is a free event. A \$5-10 donation at time of registration is recommended. Register at (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tour-the-center-for-craft-virtual-sleight-of-hand-tickets-123061968661>). The Center is offering free, unguided visits and affordable tours of its exhibitions to the public. Guests can reserve a 30-minute visit to explore the current exhibitions, learn more about the Center's national impact in their Craft Research Fund Study Collection, and enjoy interactive activities. The Center is open to the public Tuesday-Friday, noon-6pm. Hours of operation may be subject to change.

Center for Craft is monitoring the effects of COVID-19 on the community and following the instruction of federal, state, and local health departments. Our top priority is always the health and safety of our staff, coworkers, and visitors. At this time, the Center can only allow a maximum of five guests in its public space at once and will require the use of masks or face coverings by all visitors, including children. The Center reserves the right to refuse entry to any visitor that will not comply. Register at (<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/center-for-craft-5342081629>).

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 828/785-1357 or visit ([www.centerfor-craft.org](http://www.centerfor-craft.org)).

## Center for Craft in Asheville, NC, Features New Exhibition

The Center for Craft in Asheville, NC, is presenting *Sleight of Hand*, on view in the Bresler Family Gallery, through Jan. 22, 2021.

*Sleight of Hand* brings together eleven works by six contemporary artists of color working in ceramics who use humor as a tool to navigate a range of pressing social issues. For these artists, humor is not merely an aesthetic choice; it is also a tool of resistance, resilience, and healing. The deliberate use of humor in ceramics traces back to the 1950s and 1960s Bay Area Funk art. However, in recent years, a younger and far more diverse generation of artists has revitalized this artistic strategy. This exhibition highlights this critical shift in the field of ceramics through the lens of artists of color. While the exhibition focuses on clay, the objects on display point to an expanded field that moves beyond sculpture to include video and paintings featuring ceramics.

Participating artists include: Diana Yesenia Alvarado, Natalia Arbelaez, Salvador Jiménez-Flores, Yvette Mayorga, Woody De Othello, and Maryam Yousif. The exhibit was curated by Angelik Vizcarrondo-Laboy.

As the exhibition title suggests, the exhibiting artists use their hands to produce vi-



Salvador Jiménez-Flores, "The Resistance Of The Hybrid Cacti" (Detail), 2017. Photo courtesy of the artist.

sual illusions out of clay that, while cheery on the surface, can carry serious undertones. Humor is inherently deceptive, often the result of an exaggerated truth or a cunning trick that lends levity and clarity to subjects that are taboo or otherwise difficult to discuss. Strategies of irreverence, irony, absurdity, and cuteness are employed in *Sleight of Hand* to subversively establish accessible platforms for dialogue and engagement with

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## Asheville Gallery of Art in Asheville, NC, Features Member Exhibition

The Asheville Gallery of Art in Asheville, NC, will present *Opening Up to Art*, a multi-member show featuring each artist's personal exploration into being part of this world during uneasy times. The show will be on view from Nov. 1-30, 2020.

Among the many artist members exhibiting, a few share some insights on their works. Chris Bell, noted for custom portraits, also explores the natural world through her art. She often uses alcohol inks to create colorful and expressive interpretations of the wonder around us. Of her painting, *Egret On a Tin Roof*, Bell says, "It's as if the egret is thinking, 'I can feel it... coming in the air tonight.'"

Olga Dorenko says of her painting in the show, *Winter Sun*, that it reminds her of Russian winters. "I lived in Siberia for five years. And while the weather is cold with lots of snow, there are many magical scenes that are soft and peaceful."

Bill George defines his work as, "Realism (a.k.a. naturalism), a style of art that attempts to portray the subject as it actually appears in real life but stops short of looking like a photograph." He worked as a graphic designer and illustrator in his own graphic design firm on Madison Avenue, New York.

Zoe Schumaker says of *Opening*, her painting in the show, "These bright asters were photographed in a garden in Ashland, Oregon, before COVID-19 and the recent



Work by Chris Bell

devastating fires. I used a black background to 'pop' the flowers, giving the painting a more stylized, graphic feeling."

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/251-5796 during open hours. You can also e-mail us at ([Ashevillegalleryofart@gmail.com](mailto:Ashevillegalleryofart@gmail.com)), visit the gallery website at ([www.ashevillegallery-of-art.com](http://www.ashevillegallery-of-art.com)) or find us on Facebook.

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be November 24th for the December 2020 issue and Dec. 24 for the January 2021 issue. After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month.

But don't wait for the last minute - send your info now. And where do you send that info? E-mail to ([info@carolinaarts.com](mailto:info@carolinaarts.com)).