

Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts & Culture in Charlotte, NC, Offers Works by Stephanie J. Woods

The Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts & Culture, at Levine Center for the Arts in Uptown Charlotte, NC, is presenting *Stephanie J. Woods: where the sun shines*, on view through Oct. 29, 2023.

Organized by the Harvey B. Gantt Center *where the sun shines* is an immersive dreamworld created by Stephanie J. Woods. The artist transports the viewer between nowhere and everywhere, like a liminal space enveloping the senses. In this world, the sun always shines, the walls whistle, and Venus and Serena Williams play a never-ending tennis match in the sky. Inspired by the yellow walls of her childhood bedroom and the message Woods wrote on her bedroom door, *where the sun shines* is a new body of work that contains photographs, sculptures, textile works, and an immersive floor and video installation.

During Woods' sojourn in Africa attending the prestigious Black Rock Senegal artist residency, founded by renowned artist Kehinde Wiley, she was mesmerized by the colors of the local fashion, and the board games played on the streets which reminded her of playing checkers with her papa. *where the sun shines* honors Woods' memories growing up in Charlotte. Memories of school lunches, acts of adultification, playground games, and fathers encouraging their baby girls to shine.

Accompanying the works on display is a sound collage by sample-based visual artist, Johannes Barfield, and a ceramic installation made in collaboration with ceramicist Chantel Bollinger.

This exhibition features a unique floor in-



Stephanie J. Woods, "my papa used to play checkers," 2022. Watermelon, hand dyed cotton fabric, hair beads, barrettes, and afro hair. Archival ink-jet print, 24.5 x 36.35 x 2 inches. Courtesy of the artist.

stallation. Flat shoes are encouraged. Please watch your step and enjoy.

The Harvey B. Gantt Center is supported, in part, by the Infusion Fund and its generous donors. The Gantt Center is located at Levine Center for the Arts and supported by the North Carolina Arts Council and the Knight Foundation.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 704/547-3700 or visit (www.ganttcenter.org).

University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC, Features Works by John E. Dowell



"Following the Sound" by John E. Dowell

The University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC, is presenting *Paths to Freedom*, featuring digitally-edited photographs which examine enslaved people's relationship to cotton fields by John E. Dowell, on view in McKissick Museum's second floor North Gallery, through Dec. 16, 2023. The SC Humanities supported this project with a Mini Grant.

This exhibition is guest curated by Dr. Frank M. Martin, an art historian and curator who currently serves as Visiting Professor in the History and Theory of Art at South Carolina State University.

In his exhibition *Paths to Freedom*, Philadelphia-based artist John E. Dowell uses digitally enhanced photographs of cotton fields to evoke the experiences of enslaved people as they sought their freedom from bondage. This body of work started with Dowell responding to the question, "What would an enslaved person feel and think the night before escaping bondage? Where would they get the strength and courage to start such a dangerous journey?"

Dowell began his studies at the Tyler School of Art at Temple University in Philadelphia with an initial interest in sculpture, but he shifted and developed a passion for printmaking and ceramics. Dowell received

his BFA in 1963, graduating with honors. He later received a fellowship to the Tamarind Lithography Workshop in Los Angeles, California, where he honed his collaborative lithographic printing technique and printed for the likes of Josef Albers, Sam Frances, Nathan Oliveira, and Louise Nevelson among other renowned 20th century artists.

Dowell continued his studies in printmaking and drawing at the University of Washington, Seattle, WA, earning an MFA in 1966. He served on the faculty of Temple University's Tyler School of Art for 42 years, from 1971 to 2013, including a stint at the campus extension in Rome, Italy. An artist and master printer, Dowell's prints, paintings, and photographs have been featured in more than 50 one-person exhibitions and represented in the permanent collections of 70 museum and public collections.

Dr. Frank Martin, a scholar in art history and native South Carolinian, brings his experiences and knowledge to the exhibition as curator. Martin will place cotton in the context of its historical importance and its place in African American visual culture. He will facilitate several events in conjunction with the exhibition, including a

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documentary screening, a discussion with a scholar of African American history, and a panel discussion with Dowell. Together, the exhibition and events will engage audiences in thoughtful considerations of how cotton, the institution of slavery, and the southern experience, both historically and presently, are intimately intertwined. For details check back with the Museum from time to time at (<http://artsandsciences.sc.edu/mcks/>).

Paths to Freedom is supported by South Carolina Humanities, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities; inspiring, engaging and enriching South Carolinians with programs on literature, history, culture and heritage. This exhibition is also supported by USC's Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion's Diversity and Inclusive Excellence Grant Fund

Established in 1976, the McKissick Museum is located at the heart of the historic Horseshoe on the University of South Carolina's campus. The collections date back to 1801 and provide insight into the history of the university and the community, culture, and environment of the American South. Learn more about hours, parking,

and other information related to visiting the McKissick Museum at (https://sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/artsandsciences/mckissick_museum/visit/index.php).

The mission of SC Humanities is to enrich the cultural and intellectual lives of all South Carolinians. Established in 1973, this 501(c) 3 organization is governed by a volunteer 20-member Board of Directors comprised of community leaders from throughout the state. It presents and/or supports literary initiatives, lectures, exhibits, festivals, publications, oral history projects, videos and other humanities-based experiences that directly or indirectly reach more than 250,000 citizens annually. South Carolina Humanities receives funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities as well as corporate, foundation and individual donors. The National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy demands wisdom.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 803/777-7251 or visit (<http://artsandsciences.sc.edu/mcks/>).

701 Center for Contemporary Art in Columbia, SC, Features Works by Tyrone Geter

Please join our Artist-In-Residence, Tyrone Geter, in the studio and exhibition space every Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through Aug. 20, 2023, to experience the development of his new series titled, *Brave New World*.

Geter has spent years creating works investigating the emotional relationship between humanity and the environment. Having spent extensive time in The Gambia, Nigeria, and South Carolina, Geter captured photographs and sketches of the landscape and community and journeyed to develop a series of large-scale charcoal drawings that he will complete in the duration of his tenure as Artist in Residence at 701 Center of Contemporary Art.



Work by Tyrone Geter

During the residency, he will be positioning completed works and works in progress

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