

# Cameron Art Museum

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landscapes, still life artwork, public and personal portraits of people in our region, and more. It features the work of Michael Cunningham, Donald Furst, Claude Howell, Hobson Pittman, Robert Postma, Richard Stenhouse, Caroline Von Glahn, Virginia Wright-Frierson, and others.

## Exhibition Artist Highlights:

Claude Howell (American, 1915–1997) was born in Wilmington and was one of North Carolina's most notable artists, with an artistic career spanning almost seven decades. A brilliant colorist and meticulous draftsman, he is best known for his intimate examination of the southern coast: the quality of light and life of its people. Cameron Art Museum owns over 40 of his works as well as personal journals and effects he bequeathed. His generous posthumous donation allowed the institution to establish the Claude Howell Endowment for the Purchase of North Carolina Art which continues to add important works by North Carolina artists to the museum's permanent collection.

Virginia Wright-Frierson (American, b. 1949) is a painter, an award-winning children's book author and illustrator. She is also a large-scale public installation artist. Her projects include Wilmington's Airlie Garden's 2004 bottle chapel inspired by local visionary artist Minnie Evans, 1892–1987. Wright-Frierson was also selected as the artist to paint the ceiling mural (she chose to create images of evergreen trees reaching for sunlight) installed at Columbine High School in Littleton, CO.

Recently retired, Donald Furst (American, b. 1953) was a professor of art at the University of North Carolina Wilmington who came to the faculty in 1985. He specialized in mezzotint and other forms of intaglio printmaking. His works have been displayed nationally and across the world, from Canada to Egypt to Russia, and have been featured at the renowned International Print Triennial in Krakow, Poland and the Sapporo International Print Biennial in Japan. Furst's work has been featured in multiple exhibitions at St. John's Museum of Art (now the Cameron Art Museum, Wilmington NC) including Donald Furst: Eighteen Years of Printmaking, 1992, and Quintet: Five Print Suites by Donald Furst, 2000.

This exhibition is a traveling counterpart of the similarly themed *Close to Home* exhibition Cameron Art Museum is organizing and hosting, on view Nov. 17, 2024 through Mar. 23, 2025. Cameron Art Museum opens this exhibition with *Close to Home CAM Gala 2024*, a benefit at the museum on Nov. 16, 2024. It will feature music, a live auction, dancing, creative cuisine and craft cocktails from CAM Cafe and more. All proceeds go to support Cameron Art Museum and the work they do.

Both *Home in the Cape Fear: Selected Works from Cameron Art Museum, Wilmington, NC*, and *Close to Home* celebrate Cameron Art Museum's extensive collection and vital connections to the state, the



Claude Howell (American, 1915-1997), "Beach Cottage" 1981, Oil on canvas. Gift of the Friends of Claude Howell and St. John's Museum Acquisition funds, Collection of Cameron Art Museum - Wilmington Government Center

region, and the museum's home.

"We are thrilled to bring CAM's collection closer to our community with this exhibition. *Home in the Cape Fear* features work by regional artists we know and love like Claude Howell, Donald Furst, and Virginia Wright-Frierson, among others. We hope New Hanover County employees and their visitors enjoy this uplifting exhibition that highlights this beautiful place we call home," said Heather Wilson, Cameron Art Museum Executive Director.

"I am so pleased that New Hanover County could partner with the Cameron Art Museum to showcase artwork that has strong North Carolina and Wilmington roots," said Commissioner Rob Zapple, who helped to coordinate the partnership. "This exhibit is on the second floor of the Government Center where our wonderful employees can enjoy the artwork and feel inspired by it every day. This unique partnership between New Hanover County and CAM breathes new life into some of the museum's treasured pieces, enriching the quality of life for our public servants and the greater community by making art more accessible to all."

The Cameron Art Museum provides a cultural gathering place that enriches the lives of museum visitors and the community through high-quality exhibitions, lifelong learning in the arts, dynamic public programs, and stewardship and interpretation of the collection. CAM's four core values: commitment to community, to lifelong learning in the arts, to support of artists, and to collecting, preserving, documenting and interpreting a permanent collection of art. The museum has been a collecting institution since inception, with approximately 4,000 objects in the permanent collection, with a primary and growing focus on modern art. The collection includes work by artists of national and international significance, used in changing thematic exhibitions, loan exhibitions, and for educational purposes. Cameron Art Museum is a non-profit fully reliant on the generosity of its donors.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call CAM at 910/395-5999 or visit ([www.cameronartmuseum.org](http://www.cameronartmuseum.org)).

to welcome singer-songwriter Tift Merritt and artist Thomas Sayre to CAM for an intimate evening of song, reflection, and discussion within the gallery space. The museum invites the community to gather on Sept. 12, 2024, at 7pm for this one-of-a-kind performance. Tickets are available now at ([CameronArtMuseum.org](http://CameronArtMuseum.org)). Space is limited and this event is expected to sell out quickly.

Thomas Sayre is an American sculptor and painter. He designs and builds public art projects and private commissions all over the world. His current work includes large paintings made with tar, smoke, gunshots, welding material, earth, and fire. Sayre is a founding principal of the multi-disciplinary design firm Clearscapes, alongside architect Steve Schuster. The team designs numerous civic, educational, and museum buildings.

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Twilight Fishing, collage painting on paper, 8"x10"

## Collages by Eric McRay

July 26 – August 31

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Sayre sculpts, paints, and produces commissioned work. His art is housed in collections across the globe from Thailand to Tennessee. He has exhibited his work in a number of private galleries and public museums, including Cheryl Hazan Gallery in Manhattan and the Contemporary Art Museum and the North Carolina Museum of Art, both in Raleigh, NC. In 1995, Sayre received a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship. In 2014, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts from North Carolina State University.

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## Art in Bloom Gallery in Wilmington, NC, Offers Works by Joanne Geisel

Art in Bloom Gallery in Wilmington, NC, will present *Endless Skies*, featuring new works by Joanne Geisel, on view from Aug. 2 through Sept. 8, 2024. A reception will be held on Aug. 4, from 2-5pm.

Geisel states, "In our daily lives, we get caught up in routines and therefore limit our awareness of the possibilities. On the other hand, looking at skies can be transforming, as they can be limitless in their expansiveness, colors, and the endless formation of clouds, and through them we feel we can go beyond our limitations and even time and space. The oceans, lakes, and marshes express other dimensions of the landscapes and ourselves."

"My love of drawing and painting began as a child which led to choosing a bachelor's degree in art education where I could take a broad array of studio courses and then I continued with graduate courses to become permanently certified to teach in New York State," adds Geisel. "I later received a master's in public administration. My careers were in human services and higher education, where I used my creative and problem-solving skills in program development and management, marketing,



Work by Joanne Geisel

community outreach, and career and educational counseling."

"Upon moving to North Carolina in 2005, I focused on becoming a full-time artist; painting, teaching, exhibiting, and selling my artwork. My goals in creating oil paintings include capturing the feelings, sights and sounds of my subject. I continue to experiment with texture, edges, brushstrokes, and palette knife and the layering of color to create depth, luminosity, and beauty."

On view along with this exhibit will be a

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## Cameron Art Museum in Wilmington, NC, Offers Works by Thomas Sayre

The Cameron Art Museum in Wilmington, NC, is presenting *Thomas Sayre: Four Walls*, featuring new and never exhibited works by American artist Thomas Sayre (American, b. 1950), on view through Feb. 16, 2025.

Each of the four large-scale pieces installed in Cameron Art Museum's Hughes Wing engage the belief systems and symbols that underpin the ideals of church, nation, and creation. Made of materials that include tar, smoke, fabric gowns, gunshots, welding material, earth and fire, these works invite visitors to draw close and experience the messiness of making, and by analogy, to bear witness to the ways that life invades, entangles, and tarnishes us. Inspired by the artist's own personal spiritual journey, *Thomas Sayre: Four Walls* invites visitors to contemplate their own place in the world.

The Cameron Art Museum is thrilled