



**For Immediate Release**

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**The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens Presents Works by 30 Northeast Florida-Based Artists in Art Ventures 30th Anniversary Exhibition**

*Exhibition opens to the public on Wednesday, January 13*

**Jan. 6, 2021 — JACKSONVILLE, Fla.** — The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, in partnership with The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, will present a retrospective exhibition to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Art Ventures Fund. Thirty artists from Northeast Florida have been selected to include one work — one for each year of Art Ventures grantmaking. The exhibition opens to the public on January 13, and will run through February 21.

Art Ventures is an endowed fund at The Community Foundation, launched in 1990 through a grant from the National Endowment of the Arts that was matched by generous local donors. The fund makes grants annually to individual artists and small arts organizations so recipients can explore or refine the next level of their craft, with more than \$1.4 million invested since its inception.

“Our community owes a debt of gratitude for the foresight of people like Ann McDonald Baker, Courtenay Wilson and Andy Bell, and the donors they enlisted for the Art Ventures Fund more than 30 years ago,” noted Nina Waters, president of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. “By securing pivotal gifts and a matching grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, they have uplifted more than 200 artists and nearly 100 small arts organizations with annual grantmaking. This investment in the arts has enriched our lives in Northeast Florida and will continue to do so.”

Featured artists for this exhibition include:

Gail Beveridge

Linda Broadfoot

Sarah Crooks  
Jim Draper  
Overstreet Ducasse  
Annelies Dykgraaf  
Doug Eng  
Shannon Estlund  
Crystal Floyd  
Zac Freeman  
Julianne French  
Jenny Hager  
Thomas Hager  
Dustin Harewood  
Marsha Hatcher  
Christina Hope  
Erin Kendrick  
Mary Jo Maraldo  
Gil Mayers  
Traci Mims  
Hiromi Moneyhun  
Elena Øhlander  
Princess Rashid  
Joe Segal  
Jay Shoots  
Kathy Stark  
Grant Ward  
Mary Williamson  
Tony Wood  
Mary N. Worthy

“The Community Foundation’s Art Ventures Fund has resulted in numerous opportunities for regional artists to showcase their unique perspectives, and through our long-standing partnership, we are honored to dedicate space — in our galleries, our conversations and our programming — to celebrate this extraordinary milestone and its impact on our artistic community,” said Dr. Andrea Barnwell Brownlee, the George W. and Kathleen I. Gibbs Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Museum.

“This exhibition showcases exactly what Art Ventures Fund donors like my mother-in-law Ann and others wanted for the Jacksonville community — an exemplary array of creativity, nurtured by the encouragement, financial support and a demonstrated commitment to the talented artists in our midst,” said Martha Frye Baker, chair of The Community Foundation Board of Trustees and a trustee of the

Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens. "The Community Foundation and the Museum have a rich history of partnership to support the cultural community, and we are delighted to do so again with this Art Ventures exhibition."

Members and guests will enjoy access to this exhibition with general admission, including during free admission days. Additionally, the Museum will present live performances by artists from multiple disciplines on select PNC Bank Free Fridays (4 to 9 p.m.) throughout the exhibition's run, to include:

Jan. 15: Tiffany Melanson and Mal Jones  
Jan. 29: Rebecca Levy and Hurley Winkler  
Feb. 5: Arvid Smith and Barbara Colaciello  
Feb. 19: Ebony Payne English and Rick Colado

Members and guests are required to reserve a timed ticket in advance of their visit at [cummermuseum.org/admission](http://cummermuseum.org/admission).

The Museum has implemented many safety and sanitation measures, including hand sanitizer stations throughout the campus, plexiglass guards for the front desk area and expanded daily cleaning and sanitation policies for all common areas and surfaces according to the Centers for Disease Control and Occupational Safety and Health Administration guidelines. All galleries now feature routes to direct the flow of movement and support social distancing. Museum staff, members and guests are required to wear masks.

For more information about the Museum's permanent collection, internally curated gallery spaces and special exhibitions, visit [cummermuseum.org/visit/art](http://cummermuseum.org/visit/art). The Museum's digital gallery experiences, virtual tours and online resources remain available to the community at [cummermuseum.org/engage](http://cummermuseum.org/engage).

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**About the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens:**

For more than 50 years, the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens has been committed to engaging and inspiring through the arts, gardens, and education. A permanent collection of more than 5,000 objects and historic gardens on a riverfront campus offers nearly 150,000 annual visitors a truly unique experience on the First Coast. Nationally recognized education programs serve adults and children of all abilities. For further information, including hours, visit [www.cummermuseum.org](http://www.cummermuseum.org).

**About The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida:**

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, Florida's oldest and largest community foundation, works to stimulate philanthropy to build a better community. The Foundation helps donors invest their philanthropic gifts wisely, helps nonprofits serve the region effectively, and helps people come together to make the community a better place. Now in its 57th year, the Foundation has assets of \$483 million and has made approximately \$550 million in grants since 1964. For more information: [www.jaxfc.org](http://www.jaxfc.org).

**About the Art Ventures Fund:**

In 1989, The Community Foundation accepted a challenge from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to create a fund to support individual artists and small, emerging arts organizations. The NEA invested \$50,000 a year for four years, and the Foundation was required to raise at least \$100,000 per year in matching funds. Many donors came forward and the campaign was a success, with grantmaking beginning in 1990. Local funding for Art Ventures Individual Artist grants comes from the Art Ventures Endowment, the J. Shepard, Jr. & Mary Ann Bryan Arts Endowment, the Anne and Sallyn Pajcic Art Ventures Endowment, the Independent Life Minority Arts Fund, the Alynne Sharp Art Fund and the Baker Family Advised Fund.