

Grand Opening

May 11 & May 12, 2012



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The Mint Museum in Charlotte, NC, Offers Three New Exhibitions

The Mint Museum in Charlotte, NC, has added three new exhibitions to its lineup for 2012, including: *Colorbind: The Emily and Zach Smith Collection*, on view at Mint Museum Uptown through Aug. 12, 2012; *Matthew Weinstein*, on view at Mint Museum Uptown through Aug. 19, 2012; and *And the Bead Goes On*, on view at Mint Museum Randolph, from May 26 through Feb. 17, 2013.



Charles Arnolde. American, 1946- , Bahama, 2004, Acrylic on canvas, 58 x 43 inches. Collection of Emily and Zach Smith. Photography by Mitchell Kearney.

"Colorbind offers our visitors the opportunity to experience a selection of works by some of the most important modern and contemporary artists of the 20th and 21st centuries," said Brad Thomas, the Mint's curator of contemporary art. "More importantly, it offers an intimate glimpse into a private collection that informs and enlivens the everyday lives of Emily and Zach Smith, two of our region's most important cultural supporters. We are extremely grateful to the Page 18 - Carolina Arts, May 2012

Smiths for making this work available for display at the Mint for the benefit of our community."

For over three decades, the Smiths have tirelessly dedicated themselves to improving the cultural infrastructure of this region. Through their patronage and extensive service on various boards including the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, The Mint Museum, Opera Carolina, and Penland School of Crafts, to name a few, their community investment has touched the lives of countless individuals.

This intimate display of works illuminates a decidedly more personal side of the couple's relationship to art. One small landscape painting on view by North Carolina artist Claude Howell (1915 - 1997) was selected jointly even before their marriage. It was an auspicious beginning for lives that would be bound by a devotion to family, community, and the arts.

As for their own personal taste in visual art, the Smiths confess a shared love of color. Works by Pop artists Jasper Johns, Robert Rauschenberg, and Wayne Thiebaud play alongside geometric abstractions by Peter Halley, Sol Lewitt, and Sean Scully - vibrant color binding each creative voice into the collectors' unified vision.

This exhibition is organized by The Mint Museum.

Matthew Weinstein, a visual artist currently living and working in Brooklyn, NY, has achieved notoriety in the art world as the first artist to focus exclusively on 3D animation. Beginning with a self-written dialogue or lyrics, Weinstein uses musical scores and written text to develop characters which he then renders by means of the animation program MAYA. Weinstein then casts actors to vocalize the dialogue, and musicians to create an auditory backdrop for the already visually-developed environments. Using

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Matthew Weinstein, American, 1964- , Ernie's (Artichoke), 2010, Acrylic on canvas. Courtesy of the Artist and Sonnabend Gallery, New York, New York

precision airbrush techniques and single-hair paintbrushes, Weinstein also creates paintings, essentially abstractions of his animated worlds. These paintings accompany the digital installations and enable the artist to explore the often-tenuous boundary between the real and the virtual in contemporary culture.

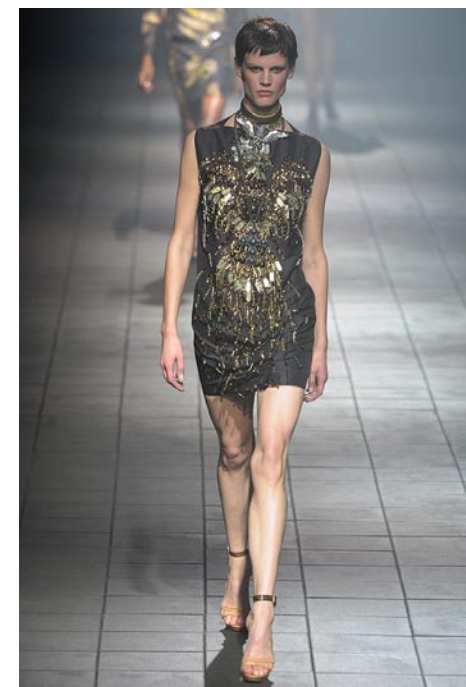
The Charlotte Symphony Orchestra commissioned Weinstein to create a digital accompaniment to debut with their performance of Maurice Ravel's *Bolero* on May 4. The Mint Museum has organized a spotlight exhibition of Weinstein's art, including four paintings and two videos. *Weinstein's Chariots of the Gods* features a mechanized female koi, voiced by Tony-award winning actress Natasha Richardson, who dangles from a golden chain in an empty restaurant. While she seems to carelessly meander through her environment with a smiling disposition, she offers discourse on such weighty subjects as the future, devolution, technology, aliens, and the impossibility of progress. A second video, *Cruising 1980*, is an homage to writer-director William Friedkin's iconic film "Cruising" (1980).

This exhibition is organized by The Mint Museum.

May brings the opening of the next exciting exhibition from the Mint's nationally-renowned collection of fashion. The Mint has recently renamed its Historic Costume & Fashionable Dress collection the Fashion Collection.

And the Bead Goes On pays tribute to a form of ornamentation that has been used to enliven fashion designs since

ancient times. Originally restricted to the wardrobes of aristocrats and made of precious materials, beads indicated wealth and status in numerous cultures throughout the globe. Sometimes beadwork was employed on garments to convey rank, spiritual significance, or protection of the wearer. Colorful and sparkling beads appeared on articles of clothing, ceremonial dress, ritual masks, and everyday objects.



Alber Elbaz (designer). Moroccan, 1961- , Lanvin. Paris, France, 1909- , Dress, Look #41, Spring/Summer 2012, Silk, beads. Museum Purchase.

And the Bead Goes On features 20th- and 21st-century women's fashions, which display inventive beadwork embroidery. This seemingly modern surface decoration, the variety of bead materials and shapes, and the basic sewing techniques used to embellish the works on view were developed in Paris workshops in the 18th century. Talented designers and skillful artisans collaborate to achieve dazzling fashions that are comfortable and durable. Glass beads, metallic sequins, metal filigree beads, faux pearls, and faceted

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