

# UNC-Greensboro in Greensboro, NC, Features Works by Beverly Semmes

UNC-Greensboro in Greensboro, NC, is presenting *Beverly Semmes: FRP*, on view in the The Bob & Lissa Shelley McDowell Gallery at the Weatherspoon Art Museum, through Sept. 6, 2015.

At the heart of *Beverly Semmes' The Feminist Responsibility Project (FRP)* is a collection of works on paper that use rough gestural applications of ink and paint to conceal and reveal the female body as depicted in pornographic magazines. As Semmes explains, "Picture a committee of rogue censors responding to the imagery of porn. They blot out the literal; what is left behind and altered now speaks in a different voice." At the Weatherspoon, the drawings are accompanied by ceramics, suspended and illuminated glass sculpture, video work, and a large-scale installation.

Semmes's ceramics and glass works complement her drawings both visually and conceptually, and convey a graphic sensibility similar to an expansive floor sculpture, *Buried Treasure*. Made of black crushed velvet, this work snakes through half of the McDowell gallery like sensuous charcoal-hued vines.

Semmes (b. Washington, DC; lives in New York City) has had numerous solo museum shows including major exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL; the Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC; and the Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, OH. Her



Beverly Semmes, "Feminist Responsibility Project (FRP)", installation view: Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Gallery, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY, 2014.

work is in the collections of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY; the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY; and the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art, CA among others. She is represented by Susan Inglett Gallery, New York.

*Beverly Semmes: FRP* is co-organized with the Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Gallery, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY and Falconer Gallery at Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 336/334-5770 or e-mail to (weatherspoon@uncg.edu).

# Greenhill in Greensboro, NC, Features Work by Jonathan Brilliant

Greenhill in Greensboro, NC, will present *Jonathan Brilliant On-Site*, on display June 19 through August 30, 2015. Curated by Edie Carpenter, the exhibition is the first major exhibition in the Triad of the constructed environments of Raleigh, NC-based artist Jonathan Brilliant known for his labor intensive installations.

Brilliant's installation at Greenhill will be a modification of his coffee shop themed installations entitled "Have Sticks Will Travel: World Tour," a marathon series of site-specific installations that have taken place in 13 galleries over 18 months, in three countries, and on two continents. Brilliant has utilized repurposed materials sourced primarily from coffee shop culture – composing his palette from disposable wooden stir sticks, iced coffee straws, paper cup sleeves and plastic cup lids.

He explains, "In this ongoing series of work, I now continue to explore my sense that the coffee shop and related consumer environs are more organic and nurturing than the 'real' natural environment."

At Greenhill, Brilliant will develop a focused site-responsive work centered on the unique features and architecture of The Gallery at Greenhill. The installation, containing between 30,000-50,000 stir sticks woven in place entirely with tension and compression with no adhesive, creates an uncanny sculptural environment for the viewer, resulting in a unique experience for onlookers where they are quite literally immersed in an environment created from nothing but the repurposed materials from everyday life. While on site he will create a dynamic and engaging installation reflecting his interests in the effects of labor, performance and materials applied to an exhibition space.

During the first ten days of *Jonathan Brilliant On-Site*, visitors will observe first-hand the construction and evolution of Brilliant's immersive environment during open artist "residency hours". The open artist residency hours (noon-2pm each day from June 23-27, 2015) give the artist the space and freedom to create something unexpected not only for himself but for Greenhill audiences as well. The site-specific work will be constructed in at least one-half of Greenhill's expansive 7,000 square foot gallery, with its high ceilings, bamboo flooring, abundant natural light and a front window looking out on a public city park.

"Brilliant has developed a specific construction technique that allows him to create



Jonathan Brilliant working on his installation for "Stick, Stack, Show" (2011) at the Center for Visual Arts in Richmond, VA ©2011 Jonathan Brilliant


airy woven walls of wooden sticks held together uniquely by tension and compression; meandering suspended paper pipes; and target-shaped geometric wall reliefs that evoke manufactured reiterations of Jasper Johns paintings," explains Carpenter. His environments appear new-age in their responsiveness to site yet project a strong traditional craft-based sensibility in their elegant construction. Though his woven stick structures are Brilliant's most well-known art form, he states that "...central to all my work is an interest in patterning and mark-making fused with the use of pre-consumer manufactured materials and the use of rhythm and repetition ..."

Brilliant incorporates elements specific to each site in the conception of his work and in The Gallery at Greenhill, housed in the former front offices of the old *News and Record* building, the artist was particularly taken with the ceiling's decorative plaster egg and dart moldings and the four concrete columns that divide the gallery. He will use the moldings as inspirations for patterning and printmaking and use the columns as support for his monumental tensile structure. Greenhill's exhibition also includes works on paper and smaller assemblages with large mono-prints made from ferrous metal objects and crates enclosing 3-d structures.

According to Brilliant, "The creation of this work entirely in situ is grounded in my belief that the gallery space may be in direct conflict with the space where art is normally created and conceived. In order to dissolve these boundaries I try whenever possible to create my work in the place where it will be experienced. This act ensures that the audience will encounter my work in the same context where it was created."

*continued above on next column to the right*

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Laura Way, Executive Director explains, "Greenhill has presented an exceptional range of exhibitions in the past 41 years, but rarely do exhibitions include site-specific, installation-based work that has this level of artist response to the environment and audience engagement." Once constructed, the work will be the center-point to myriad activities for adults and children and families through ArtQuest, Greenhill's education program. ArtQuest Summer camps have been developed to take advantage of the installation's sense of fun and whimsy as well as the art, science and engineering that it took to construct. Brilliant will lead an artist talk and conduct a teen workshop. The actual deconstruction at the end of the exhibition will be as lively and interactive as the construction. Greenhill envisions a contest to find identify the lucky one who gets to pull the right stick that sets the entire installation tumbling down.

"How audiences interact with art, and how they define art is shifting and evolving as quickly as one can capture an image on Instagram, and it is incumbent on Greenhill to embrace changing realities of how art is viewed, received and perceived. With this residency for Jonathan Brilliant, Greenhill will establish a defined practice within its artistic program of incorporating an active audience participatory exhibition model into the curatorial matrix," Way said. For more information about the exhibition visit ([www.greenhillnc.org/jonathan-brilliant-on-site](http://www.greenhillnc.org/jonathan-brilliant-on-site)).

Residing in Raleigh, Jonathan Brilliant received his BA in studio art from the Col-



Jonathan Brilliant, exhibition at Artspace in Raleigh, NC, "To Weave, To Stack, To Stain". (2012) ©2012 Jonathan Brilliant

lege of Charleston and an MFA in Spatial Arts from San Jose State University. He has received numerous fellowships to artist residencies and communities including: McColl Center for Visual Art, The Ox-Bow School of Art, The Vermont Studio Center, and The East/West Project in Berlin Germany. He is a recent recipient of an individual artist grant from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation and the South Carolina Arts Commission 2011-2012 Visual Arts Fellow.

Greenhill is located on North Davie Street, in the Greensboro Cultural Center. Greenhill promotes the visual arts of North Carolina by engaging a broad community of artists, adults and children through dynamic exhibitions and educational programs while providing a platform for exploration and investment in art.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings or visit ([www.greenhillnc.org](http://www.greenhillnc.org)).

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[www.carolinaarts.com](http://www.carolinaarts.com)






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