

Upcoming Exhibitions Schedule

Something All Our Own: The Grant Hill Collection of African American Art

March 4, 2006 - July 16, 2006

Something All Our Own features works from the African American art collection of Duke alumnus and NBA basketball star Grant Hill (B.A. '94). The exhibition includes 46 collages, paintings, prints and mixed media works by artists such as Romare Bearden, Elizabeth Catlett, John Biggers, Hughie Lee-Smith, Malcolm Brown, Phoebe Beasley and John Coleman, among others.

The national tour originated at the Orlando Museum of Art in November 2003 and has traveled to New Orleans, Baltimore and Dallas, among other venues, and will culminate at the Nasher at Duke.

Grant Hill was exposed to art at an early age by his parents, Calvin and Janet Hill, and began collecting on his own in 1995. He believes young people should see African American role models who are successful - but outside of the traditional sports and entertainment venues. The collection of art assembled by Hill and his wife, Tamia, a four-time Grammy nominee, includes works by some of the best known and most beloved African American artists of the 20th century, along with some artists who are lesser known but who also express the struggles and hopes of humankind. Alongside collages, prints, sculptures and paintings by celebrated artists such as Bearden, Catlett and Biggers are moody, solitary paintings by Hughie Lee-Smith; paintings by self-taught artist John Coleman; and sketches and paintings by late Dallas native Arthello Beck.

Duke University Press has published the full-color catalogue, featuring essays by Grant and Calvin Hill, guest curator Alvia Wardlaw, Duke professor emeritus John Hope Franklin and Duke Men's Basketball Coach Mike Krzyzewski. A 20-minute video including conversations between the Hill family and artist Elizabeth Catlett, as well as commentary from Wardlaw, accompanies the exhibition.

Conjuring Bearden

March 4, 2006 - July 16, 2006

Conjuring Bearden will provide a deeper look into a central and recurring theme in the work of American artist Romare Bearden (1912-1988), one of the most respected American artists of the

second half of the 20th century. This exhibition will be the first to explore in Bearden's art the theme of the "conjurer," or the folk type of "conjur woman" or the Caribbean "Obeah Man," who, through a combination of spiritual interventions, psychology and herbalism, transforms the world around them.

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This focused and thematic presentation of Bearden's interest in African American spirituality will be related to his artistic experimentations with form and technique. It will trace his visual musings on African, Caribbean and African American expressive mysticism and examine his magical re-invention - via the collage and photomontage - of pictorial space and time. The exhibition will build upon the findings of *The Art of Romare Bearden*, a major retrospective organized by the National Gallery of Art that is touring nationwide. Many works in the Nasher at Duke exhibition will be on view for the first time.

Born in Mecklenburg County, N.C., Romare Bearden was a young child when his parents moved to New York City. The Bearden home became a meeting place for such Harlem Renaissance luminaries as writer Langston Hughes, painter Aaron Douglas and musician Duke Ellington. Bearden's work explores themes of black identity and culture, reflects his wide range of interests and explores overlapping themes of religion, ritual practice, everyday life, jazz clubs, history, mythology and literature.

This exhibition is organized by Richard J. Powell, the John Spencer Bassett Professor of Art and Art History at Duke University, whose many publications include *Black Art: A Cultural History* (Thames and Hudson, 2002). The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue with essays by Powell and other Bearden scholars. Several special programs will be organized in conjunction with the exhibition, including a symposium sponsored by the Provost's Common Fund at Duke University, jazz concerts and a film series.

Between Past and Future: New Photography and Video from China

October 2006 - January 2007

Between Past and Future: New Photography and Video from China offers the first comprehensive look at innovative photo and video art produced in China since the mid-1990s. The exhibition features 130 works by 60 Chinese artists, many of whom are exhibiting in this country for the first time. Their works, often ambitious in scale and experimental in nature, present a range of highly individual responses to the unprecedented changes now taking place in China's economy, society and culture. In addition to introducing a remarkable body of work to American audiences, the exhibition also provides insight into the dynamics of Chinese culture at the start of the 21st century.

The exhibition was co-organized by the Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago and the International Center of Photography, New York, in collaboration with the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago and the Asia Society, New York. It was curated by Wu Hung, professor of art history at the University of

Chicago and consulting curator at the Smart Museum, and Christopher Phillips, curator at the International Center of Photography.

The exhibition won second place in the International Association of Art Critics/USA's 2003-2004 AICA Awards, in the category of "best thematic museum show in New York City." It is traveling to museums in New York, Chicago, Seattle, London and Berlin.