

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hilliard University Art Museum Opens Summer Exhibitions on Friday, June 10

Lafayette, LA - On Friday, June 10, 2016 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm the public is invited to an opening reception at the Hilliard University Art Museum celebrating our exhibitions for the summer season.

Kate Clark: Mysterious Presence uses the centuries-old technique of taxidermy to sculpt humanlike facial features with wild animal hides. Her hybridized sculptures are at once familiar yet strange, insinuating primal similarities between humans and animals and evoking questions about identity and societal values. Her sculptures' strong presence also evokes a sort of absence, rendering the figures aloof and mysterious. Often working with live models and using a polymer clay, Clark creates realistic faces for her figures and then applies sections of shaved hide to match the animal's skin to the shape of the human face thus facilitating the inter-species transformation.

This exhibition will be on view from May 28 – August 27.

Creole World: Photographs of New Orleans and the Latin Caribbean Sphere, organized by The Historic New Orleans Collection, showcases nearly 50 vibrant images from renowned photographer Richard Sexton. New Orleans is known for its distinctive Creole heritage – evident in its food, architecture, and people – but it is part of an entire family of Latin Caribbean cities that forged new identities from their colonial histories. This exhibition will explore these connections, featuring the work of renowned photographer Richard Sexton. Over the course of 38 years (1975-2013), Sexton traveled across Latin America – from Haiti, Columbia, Argentina, Cuba, and Ecuador back home to New Orleans – capturing the architectural and urban similarities among these culturally rich locales.

This exhibition will be on view from June 10 – August 20.

Depictions of Louisiana: From the Permanent Collection of the Hilliard University Art Museum uses works dating from mid-Nineteenth Century to the present and selected texts from literature, to interpret Louisiana through the artists' expressions of individuality, belief, space and place. As individuals move through their lives, their experiences with their surroundings ultimately define their sense of themselves. Nowhere is this connection stronger than in south Louisiana where generations of families have intertwined the narratives of outsiders and insiders instilling this *place* with a legacy influenced by fact, fiction, assumptions, misconceptions and even fantasy.

This exhibition is on view from January 15 – August 20.

Condition Report: Preserving our Community's Art Collection offers a behind the scenes look at the daily preservation practices at the museum. The exhibit highlights the key concepts of conservation science and presents a selection of artworks typically unseen, due to their fragile condition. Among the ten pieces featured in the exhibit are an early 20th century botanical drawing by Harriet Joor, a Thomas Sully portrait from 1812, and a recently restored painting by John McCrady. This exhibition is on view March 19 – August 13.

The museum is thankful for the support and partnerships that have made this season of exhibitions possible. Richard Sexton's *Creole World* photographs are from the permanent holdings of The Historic New Orleans Collection. Kate Clark: *Mysterious Presence* originated at the Newcomb Art Museum of Tulane, New Orleans and was curated by Monica Ramirez-Monagut, museum director.

The Hilliard University Art Museum is located at 710 East Saint Mary Boulevard. Lafayette, LA. Museum hours are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; Wednesday, 9:00 am to 8:00 pm; and Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Adults \$5, Seniors (62+) \$4, Students (5-17) \$3, Children (under 5) free, and UL Students/Staff/Faculty free with identification. Guided tours of the galleries are available every Friday & Saturday at 2 PM, complimentary with admission.

For more information please visit hilliardmuseum.org or call (337) 482-2278.

Images available upon request.

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