

## PRESS RELEASE

Hilliard University Art Museum  
University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
710 East Saint Mary Blvd.  
Lafayette, LA 70503

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### **Friday, February 3, 2017 Spring Exhibition Opening Reception 6:00-8:00 PM**

Join us in celebration of four new exhibitions at the Hilliard Museum that explore “The Politics of Place.”

#### **Free and open to the public**

Related Programming:  
Artist Talks with Sandra Eula Lee and Yun-Fei Ji  
5:30 PM, Wednesday, February 1  
Gallery Tour with Wyatt and Becky Collins  
2:00 PM, Saturday, February 4

Sandra Eula Lee. *Make of / Make do*, 2016. Reed, bamboo, work gloves, electrical cords, plastic bags, construction mesh, tarp.

**Lafayette, LA, January 9, 2017-** The Hilliard University Art Museum is pleased to announce the opening of its spring 2017 season with a series of four new exhibitions. The public is invited to celebrate and view the new gallery installations on Friday, February 3, at a reception from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. A private members only preview will take place from 4:00 to 6:00 PM.

For the spring 2017 season, the four exhibitions explore geopolitics and the creative process behind an artist’s work in the studio, utilizing “The Politics of Place” as a guiding theme. The Hilliard Museum will present a range of works made in both rural and urban areas, bringing together important voices from Asia, New Orleans, and Acadiana, as well as other regions of the United States. A diverse season of programs will occur throughout the spring in support of the four exhibitions, featuring artist talks with Tina Freeman and Shawne Major, film screenings of *God’s Architects* and *!Women Art Revolution*, a gospel night at the museum, as well as a blues guitar performance by the UL School of Music, and many others.

#### ***Spiritual Journeys: Homemade Art from the Becky & Wyatt Collins Collection***

**Curated by Gus Kopriva**

**February 3, 2017 – August 12, 2017**

An encyclopedic survey of vernacular Southern art, this exhibition comes from the Collins’ New Iberia home, where they have amassed over 2,000 objects. “Becky and Wyatt Collins have simply collected what they enjoy,” says Kopriva. “In their quest for outstanding pieces of art, they have traveled all across the south, from remote farms and juke joints, to festivals and auctions. Theirs is a collection that has been built piece-by-piece, traveling through the backcountry and larger urban areas, forging close relationships with countless artists and craftspeople. Among the 100+ artists represented in this project are Mary T. Smith, Howard Finster, Minnie Black, B.F. Perkins, Jimmy Sudduth, Prophet Royal Robertson, Burgess Dulaney, Clementine Hunter, Sam Doyle, and others.

#### ***Yun-Fei Ji: Looking for Lehman Brothers***

**Curated by Dr. Christopher Bennett**

**February 3, 2017 – May 6, 2017**

Ji revivifies the brush-and-ink painting methods typically associated with earlier periods of Chinese art, including literati landscape painting of the Song Dynasty. Using such traditional methods, Ji delves into contemporary global events in which issues of environmental crisis, geographical displacement, and the re-making of place come into sharp focus. His work reinvents the system of symbolic structures found in classical Chinese painting to expose the dark side of industrial development on contemporary life. The exhibition highlights a suite of paintings and sketches that grapple, retrospectively, with the devastation and aftereffects of Hurricane Katrina. These works by Ji establish parallels between the scope of the financial collapse of 2008 and that of Katrina three years earlier – with the focus persistently falling on the effects that large-scale and global crises have on the lives of ordinary people.

***Sandra Eula Lee: Make of / Make do***  
**Curated by Dr. Christopher Bennett**  
**December 27, 2016 – May 6, 2017**

Lee's installations incorporate sculptural, photographic, and drawing traditions to consider ways in which place is created among changing urban and environmental conditions. The sculptures and installations she constructs are informed by her observations of daily life and through the collecting and reconfiguring of the materials that pass through it. Lee uses materials salvaged from construction sites in her art. Working with materials gathered during travels through South Korea, China, and the United States, she configures work that explores the theme of the "garden" — principally as an East Asian formation — and the "ponds" often located within them.

***Spotlight on Shawne Major***  
**December 9, 2016 – May 13, 2017**

This exhibition features three large scale works by the Opelousas-based artist: *Bud Sport* (2008), *Nadir* (2011) and *Vestige* (2001). Major states, "I am interested in how the perception of reality is colored by dreams, memory, superstition, religion, bias, prejudice, and fear. My mixed-media works, in general, refer to the overlay of belief systems created by the individual to piece together their personal paradigm. My vocabulary — a combination of kitsch, ersatz and craft materials, junk and personal objects — is re-aestheticized into accumulated forms that serve as metaphors for the build-up, organization and assimilation of information. The personal objects are evidences of pain, happiness, loss, guilt, shame — all the material detritus of the everyday human experience."

**Acknowledgements**

The museum wishes to express gratitude for the support and partnerships that have made this season of exhibitions possible: The Hilliard Society, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, the UL Foundation, the Friends of the Humanities, the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Humanities, Bon Temps Grill, and Republic National Distributing Company as well as our friends and members.

**Upon request, high-resolution images, full artist biographies, and complementary program calendars are available. Interviews may also be arranged.**

**Museum Hours, Admission & General Information**

The Hilliard University Art Museum is located at 710 East Saint Mary Boulevard, on the campus of University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Museum Hours are: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM; Wednesday, 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM; Saturday, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM; closed Sunday and Monday. General Admission: \$5 Adults, \$4 Seniors (62+), \$3 Students (5-17). FREE for Members, UL Students/Staff/Faculty with identification, and visitors under 5. Guided tours of the galleries are available Friday & Saturday at 2 PM, complimentary with admission. For general information, please visit [hilliardmuseum.org](http://hilliardmuseum.org) or call (337) 482-2278.

**About the Hilliard**

The Hilliard University Art Museum operates on the campus of University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and was originally founded in 1964 as the Art Center for Southwest Louisiana. Featuring a state-of-the-art modern facility that was erected in 2004, the museum houses more than 2,200 objects in its permanent collection, and is the largest art exhibition space between New Orleans and Houston. The Hilliard

serves a wide range of educational and cultural needs by fostering cross-disciplinary intellectual discourse on campus, and throughout the region. At the core of the Hilliard's mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit the art of our time, while celebrating the great diversity of Louisiana's heritage.

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