



North Carolina Museum of Art

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**John James Audubon's *The Birds of America* Returns to View  
at the North Carolina Museum of Art**

*Immersive video room The Audubon Experience brings visitor-favorite folios to life;  
additional free spring exhibitions announced*

**Raleigh, N.C.**—The North Carolina Museum of Art will again display the popular [The Birds of America](#) by John James Audubon starting Saturday, February 16, as part of its free permanent collection. Today only about 200 complete sets of *The Birds of America* exist in the world. The Museum's set, bound in four volumes, was acquired by the State of North Carolina in 1846 and held at the State Library before being transferred to the Museum in 1974.



At the same time, the NCMA opens [The Audubon Experience](#), an immersive video room adjacent to the gallery that surrounds the visitor with scenes from forests and jungles, mimicking what Audubon would have experienced in his travels throughout the world. Visitors will learn about the naturalist's life and artistic process in the temporary experience, on view until September 15, 2019.

"We're thrilled to have the beloved Audubon folios back on view," said Director Valerie Hillings, PhD. "Audubon's work captures the beauty and wonder of nature while also highlighting that it is subject to change over time. Many of the birds in the folios are now extinct, so *The Birds of America* and *The Audubon Experience* take the visitor on a journey to the past."

In the new Audubon Gallery in the Museum's East Building, the NCMA presents Audubon's work in special cases designed for each of the enormous "double elephant" volumes, with hydraulic lifts that allow staff to periodically turn pages to display a new selection of birds. The opening selections, beginning on page one of each volume, will remain on view until May 18, 2019, when the pages will be turned. The pages will again be turned August 17 and November 16, putting four new birds on display each time.

In celebration of the gallery's return, the NCMA is participating in the Audubon Society's [Great Backyard Bird Count](#) Saturday, February 16. The free

(continued)

event in the Ann and Jim Goodnight Museum Park features birdwatching, birding information from local experts, and a bird-inspired craft to take home. [NCMA Learn](#), the NCMA's educational website for educators, students, and lifelong learners, features new lesson plans related to the folios so visitors of all ages can explore Audubon's work.

### Additional Upcoming Free Spring Exhibitions

#### [Within the Frame](#)

February 16–July 21, 2019  
East Building, Level B



Photography provides an opportunity to see what might otherwise be overlooked. Capitalizing on this concept, *Within the Frame* presents a collection of images that reveal hidden scenes within mirrors, frames, windowpanes, and other constructions. In *Within the Frame*, viewers “enter” some spaces through doorways, allowing for a deepening of the scope of a picture and the expansion of the story within an image. Windowpanes invite daydreaming, while reflective surfaces—especially mirrors—welcome contemplation of the self or

questions of identity. Other works ask the viewer to consider the irony of a framed work of art within a photograph. Together the photographs in *Within the Frame* evoke ideas about photography that change the ways we think about the medium.

Artists in the exhibition include David Simonton, Nan Goldin, Alec Soth, Kristina Rogers, Pamela Pecchio, Elliott Erwitt, Uta Barth, John Menapace, Luis Rey Velasco, Lee Friedlander, Allen Frame, Ralph Eugene Meatyard, and Joyce Tenneson, among others.

#### [Sayler/Morris: Their World Is Not Our World](#)

February 16–July 7, 2019  
East Building, Level B

In Susannah Sayler and Edward Morris's video installation *Their World Is Not Our World*, a photographer and her smitten assistant document the Oostvaardersplassen, a fantastical manmade “wilderness” about 20 miles from Amsterdam. In connecting with the animals that make this nature reserve their home, the artists blur the boundaries between control and freedom, highlighting the human desire for connection even to those different from us.



Susannah Sayler and Edward Morris also are creating three new images for our Park Pictures

billboards, on view in the Museum Park in spring 2019, merging contemporary art with the "wilderness" at the NCMA.

### **About the Exhibitions**

John James Audubon's *The Birds of America* is organized by the North Carolina Museum of Art. Support is provided by the Henry Luce Foundation and the William R. Kenan Jr. Charitable Trust. Additional support is provided by the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and the North Carolina Museum of Art Foundation, Inc. Research for this exhibition was made possible by Ann and Jim Goodnight/The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fund for Curatorial and Conservation Research and Travel.

*Within the Frame* and *Sayler/Morris: Their World Is Not Our World* are organized by the North Carolina Museum of Art. These exhibitions are made possible, in part, by the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources; the North Carolina Museum of Art Foundation, Inc.; and the William R. Kenan Jr. Endowment for Educational Exhibitions. Research was made possible by Ann and Jim Goodnight/The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fund for Curatorial and Conservation Research and Travel.

### **About The Audubon Experience**

Organized by the North Carolina Museum of Art. Support is provided by the William R. Kenan Jr. Charitable Trust. This exhibition is made possible, in part, by the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources; the North Carolina Museum of Art Foundation, Inc.; and the William R. Kenan Jr. Endowment for Educational Exhibitions.

### **Image captions (top to bottom)**

John James Audubon, *Carolina Parrot*, from *The Birds of America*, 1827–38, hand-colored aquatint/engraving on Whatman paper, 40 x 26 in., transfer from the North Carolina State Library

Joyce Tenneson, *Self-Portrait: hands held before face*, 1976, gelatin-silver print, 5 7/8 x 8 7/8 in., Purchased with funds from the North Carolina State Art Society (Robert F. Phifer Bequest), © 2018 Joyce Tenneson

Sayler/Morris, video still from *Their World Is Not Our World*, two-channel video installation, with sound (22:38), 2016, © 2016 Sayler/Morris

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### **About the North Carolina Museum of Art**

The North Carolina Museum of Art's permanent collection spans more than 5,000 years, from ancient Egypt to the present, making the institution one of the premier art museums in the South. The Museum's collection provides educational, aesthetic, intellectual, and cultural experiences for the citizens of North Carolina and beyond. The 164-acre Ann and Jim Goodnight Museum Park showcases the connection between art and nature through site-specific works of environmental art. The Museum offers changing national touring exhibitions, classes, lectures, family activities, films, and concerts.

The Museum opened West Building, home to the permanent collection, in 2010. The North Carolina Museum of Art, Valerie Hillings, director, is located at 2110 Blue Ridge Road in Raleigh. It is the art museum of the State of North Carolina, Roy Cooper, governor, and an agency of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Susi Hamilton, secretary.