

For Immediate Release


ART | GARDENS | EDUCATION

Media contacts:

Nan Kavanaugh

904.415.0051 (c)

nan@wearewingard.com

Tess Chalifour-Drahman

434.229.0197 (c)

904.899.6027 (o)

TChalifourDrahman@cummuseum.org

Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens Presents *Deborah Roberts: I'm*

Free admission offered Saturday, September 17 in celebration of Museum Day in partnership with Smithsonian Magazine

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — September 1, 2022 — The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens will present its newest exhibition, *Deborah Roberts: I'm* on September 16, 2022, opening to the public at 4 p.m. Museum admission is free on September 17 as a part of [Museum Day](#), a celebration organized by Smithsonian Magazine that represents a national commitment to access, equality, and inclusion. The exhibition will be on view through December 4.

In the exhibition *Deborah Roberts: I'm*, artist Deborah Roberts critiques notions of beauty, the body, race, and identity in contemporary society through the lens of Black children. Her mixed media works combine found images, sourced from the internet, with hand-painted details in striking figural compositions that invite viewers to look closely. Her focus on Black children investigates how societal pressures, projected images of beauty or masculinity and the violence of American racism conditions their experiences growing up in this country as well as how others perceive them.

Roberts is a nationally acclaimed artist whose work in the past decade has gained significant recognition in the art world. She counts among her collectors celebrities such as Jay Z and Beyoncé, as well as dignitaries including the Obamas. *Deborah Roberts: I'm* has toured across the United States since January 2021, and the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens is its final stop, Jacksonville being the only East Coast stop on the tour.

"*Deborah Roberts: I'm* furthers the Museum's legacy of presenting thought-provoking works from a variety of time periods, geographies, and perspectives that heighten our mission to inspire and engage through art, gardens, and education," said Andrea Barnwell Brownlee, Ph.D. the Museum's George W. and Kathleen I. Gibbs Director and CEO. "Her heroic portrayals of Black children are powerful vehicles through which we can examine and discuss meaningful and timely topics. We look forward to working in partnership with several organizations throughout the run of the exhibition to dive deeply, expand our horizons, and celebrate beauty."

Deborah Roberts: I'm opens to the public on Friday, September 16 at 4 p.m. Free admission for opening night (4 to 9 p.m.) is sponsored by PNC Bank, through the Museum's ongoing Free Fridays program. That night, the Museum will also be offering a book signing with Deborah Roberts (the only book signing event on the East coast), live music, lawn games, and bars with beverages for purchase.

Free admission will also be available on Saturday, September 17 to any guests registered through the Smithsonian Magazine's Museum Day program. The day will be full of activities and fun for the entire family to enjoy including tours, scavenger hunts, giveaways, and Cummer Shop discounts. Advance registration is required at smithsonianmag.com. This weekend is also an opportunity to experience *Buddha & Shiva, Lotus & Dragon: Masterworks from the Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd Collection at Asia Society* one last time before it closes for good on September 18.

The Museum is working in collaboration with a variety of partners to organize a dynamic slate of programs throughout the run of the exhibition. They will encourage visitors to have deeper and richer interactions with the exhibition and include: a panel discussion with the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center; exhibition interactives and creative writing opportunities; a Race Cards Conversation with 904ward; facilitated youth experiences including story time with the Jacksonville Public Library; and Look at That! virtual programs.

An exhibition catalog is available for purchase in the Cummer Shop as well as online. *Deborah Roberts: I'm* is organized by The Contemporary Austin. The exhibition and catalog are made possible with generous support from the Ford Foundation, an Art Works grant from the National Endowment of the Arts, Vielmetter Los Angeles, Stephen Friedman Gallery, London, The Girlfriend Fund, Suzanne McFayden and other individual donors from Austin and around the country.

Philanthropic support from the community is critical for the Museum to serve as a vibrant civic resource. Local support for *Deborah Roberts: I'm* has been generously provided by:

Lead Sponsor

The Chartrand Family

Exhibition Sponsor

Wish Foundation

Education Sponsor

FSCJ Foundation

Season Presenters

City of Jacksonville
Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville
Lory Doolittle
Ronald and Karen Rettner

Season Lead Sponsors

The Robert D. Davis Family Endowment
The Schultz Family Endowment
State of Florida

Season Sponsors

Director's Circle at the Cummer Museum
The Winston Family Foundation

For more information on *Deborah Roberts: I'm*, exhibition programming, or to purchase an exhibition catalog, visit cummermuseum.org.

###

About the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens:

For 60 years, the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens has been committed to engaging and inspiring through the arts, gardens, and education. A permanent collection of more than 5,000 objects and historic gardens on a riverfront campus offers nearly 140,000 annual visitors a truly unique experience on the First Coast. Nationally recognized education programs serve adults and children of all abilities. The Museum is committed to ensuring that diversity and inclusion are woven into the fabric of its exhibitions, programs, and offerings. For further information, including hours, visit www.cummermuseum.org.