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Explore Black History Month at the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens

Highlights include Jacksonville's Norman Studios: Movie Posters from the Permanent Collection & Final Days to See Spirit in the Land Exhibition

WHAT:

[The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens](#) invites the community to explore Black History Month during February through works on view year-round in its galleries. The Cummer Museum's Permanent Collection contains a number of works by Black artists that date from the mid-19th century through the present day.

Kick off the month on Saturday, February 1, with Free First Saturday. Visitors will enjoy free admission to the Museum, providing a perfect opportunity to travel back in time to Jacksonville's silent film era through the exhibition [Jacksonville's Norman Studios: Movie Posters from the Permanent Collection](#).

Silent filmmaker Richard Norman purchased the bankrupt Eagle Studios complex in Arlington in 1920. Norman produced at least eight feature films in eight years and gained national attention by producing films with Black casts for Black audiences. His productions, low cost yet polished and entertaining, featured Black actors as cowboys, pilots and businessmen in romance, mystery and action films. He recruited some of the most prominent stage actors to make the switch to the screen. The Museum acquired 18 original film promotional posters for its Permanent Collection in 2002.

Also on view from the Permanent Collection are two striking sculptures by Augusta Savage in the Helen Murchison and Edward W. Lane, Jr. Gallery. A gifted sculptor, Savage (1892–1962) was born in Green Cove Springs and later became a significant teacher, leader and catalyst for change. Overcoming poverty, racism and sexual discrimination, Savage became one of this country's most influential artists of the 20th century, playing an instrumental role in the development of some of the most celebrated African American artists.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to view works by ancient Egyptian artists, William Artis (1914-1977), Romare Bearden (1911-1988), Sanford Biggers (b. 1970), Robert Seldon Duncanson (1821-1872), Jacob Lawrence (1917-2000), Hughie Lee-Smith (1915-1999), Whitfield Lovell (b. 1959), Henry Ossawa Tanner (1859-1937), and Mildred Thompson (1936-2003), among others

In addition to a self-guided tour available on site, visitors can also enjoy [Drop-In Tour: Black Artists in the Collection](#) to learn more about the contributions and achievements of Black artists on view year-round throughout the Museum. For young visitors this month, [Artful Storytime](#), (formerly Storyteller Mornings), is an opportunity to explore the rich tapestry of African American history and culture through an engaging tale. After the story, children will enjoy a fun, hands-on artmaking experience

Throughout the month of February, the Museum welcomes all members of the community to come and celebrate the joy of creative expression. It is also the last chance for the public to see the exhibition, [Spirit in the Land](#), which ends its national tour in Jacksonville at the Cummer Museum on February 9.

WHEN:

Black History Month

Time: The month of February

[Drop-In Tour: Black Artists in the Collection](#)

Time: February 16, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

[Artful Storytime \(Formerly Storyteller Mornings\)](#)

Time: February 20, 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Free Admission Days

Time: Saturday, February 1, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesday, February 18, 4 to 9 p.m.

WHO:

Interview opportunities available with museum representatives can be arranged with advance notice.

WHERE:

Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens

829 Riverside Ave.

Jacksonville, FL 32204

Complimentary parking is located across Riverside Avenue from the Museum entrance and on the corner of Riverside Avenue and Post Street.

For more visual assets go

here: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/djrmfilzd4nc65hf1mvet/AB8w9XKooD0gGyfjaFzQ68k?rlkey=vt09orl71m86dmweqeutg4392&st=csfnqo1&dl=0>

For more details, visit cummermuseum.org or call 904-356-6857.

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About the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens:

The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens stands as a beacon of culture and inspiration in Jacksonville, Florida, proudly showcasing an impressive collection of art and stunning historically significant gardens. Founded in 1958 by the visionary Ninah Cummer, a powerful woman deeply committed to her community, the museum reflects her passion for art, gardens and education. Ninah's dream was to create a space where the beauty of fine art and nature could be appreciated and shared with all, and she succeeded in transforming her family estate into this remarkable institution. The museum boasts an exquisite collection that spans from ancient to contemporary art, including European masterpieces and American works that resonate with the spirit of the region. Complementing the art is a series of beautifully landscaped gardens along the St. Johns River that invite visitors to explore and find tranquility amidst nature's splendor. This harmonious blend of art and nature not only enhances the visitor experience but also embodies the essence of creativity and serenity that defines the Cummer Museum, making it an essential destination for art lovers and nature enthusiasts alike. As a landmark in Jacksonville, the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens not only honors Ninah Cummer's legacy but also serves as a vital cultural hub for education, creativity, and community engagement. It stands as a testament to the power of one woman's vision and her enduring impact on the arts in the community.