



# THE MINT MUSEUM

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024





## MISSION

Welcoming all to be inspired and transformed through the power of art and creativity. The Mint Museum is dedicated to leadership in collecting, exhibiting, conserving, researching, publishing, interpreting, and sharing art and design from around the world. These commitments are central to the museum's core values of leadership, integrity, inclusiveness, knowledge, stewardship, and innovation, promoting understanding of and respect for diverse peoples and cultures.

## VALUES

The Mint Museum seeks to continuously enhance lives and create a more empathetic world by ensuring access and by engaging communities in a meaningful, lifelong relationship with art and design.

The following core values guide The Mint Museum's activity, internally and externally:

- Accountability
- Education and Intellectual Rigor
- Collaboration
- Innovation and Excellence
- Diversity and Inclusivity
- Community and Welcoming

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IMAGE ON COVER: Robert W. Ebendorf (American, 1938–), various artists. *ECU Charm Necklace* (detail), 2017, silver, copper, brass, enamel, mixed media, found objects, 19 × 12 1/2 × 1 3/4 in. Collection of The Mint Museum. Gift of Porter • Price Collection. 2022.49.7





## YEAR IN REVIEW

Fiscal Year 2024 was celebrated as “The Year of the Collector,” with The Mint Museum spotlighting the private collections of four distinguished Black families and individuals, local Charlotteans Lorne Lassiter and Gary Ferraro, and Ron Porter and Joe Price. These remarkable exhibitions, paired with dynamic programs, artistic interventions, local art initiatives, and captivating installations, cemented another successful year for The Mint Museum in visitation and engagement.

More than 140,000 visitors explored The Mint Museum’s two locations in fiscal year 2024, including over 10,000 students. Additionally, the museum achieved its ambitious goal of reaching all 50 states, while extending its reach to all 100 counties in North Carolina and 49 states, building on the previous year’s geographic footprint.

The Mint Museum strives to go beyond merely showcasing art. Through enriching programming and exhibitions, we inspire visitors to discover lesser-known histories, artist techniques, and different perspectives that help to foster deeper cultural connections.

Arts and culture are vital to a city’s culture, including the Queen City. The Mint Museum serves as an anchor space for people to not only see art, but to gather and learn about the world outside their own while also getting to know their Charlotte neighbors. All these actions enhance collaboration and growth for a better place to work, live, and thrive.

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IMAGE: Sheila Gallagher (American, 1966–). *Ghost Orchid Plastic Nebula* (detail), 2018, melted plastic on armature. Museum purchase with funds provided by Wells Fargo. 2018.48





## *The Vault*

**July 1–September 17, 2023 | Mint Museum Uptown**

*The Vault* offered an intimate glimpse into the treasured collections of four Black Charlotte families, showcasing extraordinary objects that celebrate and discuss Black culture. The exhibition featured a diverse array of works, from masterpieces by Romare Bearden and John Biggers to unique furniture, pop culture memorabilia, ephemera, and even a delightful collection of Black Santas, captivating visitors with its richness and depth.

IMAGES: *The Vault*, Mint Museum Uptown, July 1–September 17, 2023





## *Walter Scott Lenox and American Belleek*

**September 23, 2023–January 21, 2024 | Mint Museum Randolph**

Featuring 80 works from notable public and private collections, as well as the Mint's permanent collection, *Walter Scott Lenox and American Belleek* focused solely on the earliest decades of American Belleek production and the role Walter Scott Lenox played in developing the concept of porcelain products as an art form.

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IMAGES: *Walter Scott Lenox and American Belleek*, Mint Museum Randolph, September 23, 2023–January 21, 2024.





## *The Art of Seating: 200 Years of American Design*

**September 16, 2023–April 24, 2024 | Mint Museum Uptown**

*The Art of Seating: 200 Years of American Design* featured more than 50 examples of American seating furniture, created between the early 19th century and the early 21st century. The Mint's presentation played upon the unique qualities and histories of seating design by noted makers and designers, including George Hunzinger, the Stickley Brothers, Frank Lloyd Wright, Charles and Ray Eames, Isamu Noguchi, Frank Gehry, and Vivian Beer. The Mint's presentation of *Art of Seating*, included community day with a rousing game of Musical Chairs that delighted visitors and participants.

IMAGES: Roy Fox Lichtenstein (1923–97), Graphicstudio, University of South Florida (United States, 1968–), Beeken Parsons (United States, 1983–). *Brushstroke Chair and Ottoman*, 1986–88, laminated white birch veneer, paint, clear varnish. Collection of the Thomas H. and Diane DeMell Jacobsen Ph.D. Foundation. L2023.63.4a–b © Estate of Roy Lichtenstein. *The Art of Seating: 200 Years of American Design*, Mint Museum Uptown, September 16, 2023–April 24, 2024.



## Craft Across Continents: Contemporary Japanese and Western Objects — The Lassiter/ Ferraro Collection

December 9, 2023–May 5, 2024 | Mint Museum Uptown

Featuring 60 outstanding objects, including glass, ceramics, bamboo, and textile contemporary objects by artists from around the globe, The Mint Museum was proud to present the exhibition *Craft Across Continents: Contemporary Japanese and Western Objects — The Lassiter/Ferraro Collection* at Mint Museum Uptown. All objects in the exhibition were recent gifts from the private collection of Charlotte residents Lorne Lassiter and Gary Ferraro who are avid collectors with a deep knowledge of contemporary craft. Programming included Japanese art expert Joe Earle presenting on local traditions and global movements; an artist talk with ceramicist Paul Briggs, and presentation on indigo processing with artist Rowland Ricketts.

IMAGE: Sharif Bey (American, 1974–). *Raptor and Sphere*, 2021, vitreous china and mixed media. Promised Gift of Lorne Lassiter and Gary Ferraro. PG2022.57.21. *Craft Across Continents: Contemporary Japanese and Western Objects — The Lassiter/Ferraro Collection*, Mint Museum Uptown, December 9, 2023–May 5, 2024.





## *Echoes: Artists Respond to Carolina Shout*

**November 11, 2023–October 27, 2024 | Mint Museum Uptown**

*Echoes: Artists Respond to Carolina Shout* showcased individual interpretations by eight Charlotte artists who were invited to create new works of art in response to Romare Bearden's iconic collage *Of the Blues: Carolina Shout*. Since acquiring *Carolina Shout* in 1975, The Mint Museum has built the largest public collection of Bearden's works in the country. The museum has a dedicated permanent collection gallery at Mint Museum Uptown to explore various aspects of Bearden's art, legacy, and impact. Bearden's collage has become a signature piece in the museum's collection and has been prominently featured in major exhibitions about the artist.

IMAGES: *Echoes: Artists Respond to Carolina Shout*, Mint Museum Uptown, November 11, 2023 - October 27, 2024.





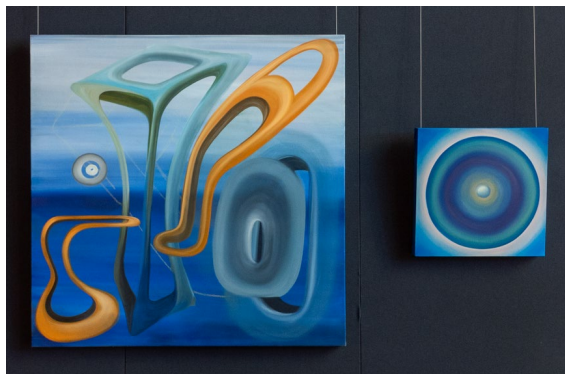
## *Objects of Affection: Jewelry by Robert Ebendorf From the Porter • Price Collection*

**April 27, 2024–February 16, 2025 | Mint Museum Randolph**

*Objects of Affection: Jewelry by Robert Ebendorf From the Porter • Price Collection* featured works of jewelry, metalwork, drawings, and archival materials created by Robert Ebendorf, one of the most influential artists in the studio jewelry movement, as well as faculty and graduates of the metal design program at East Carolina University. As a teacher and mentor, Ebendorf's influence extends far beyond his own creations, making him a beloved figure in the industry. In May 2024, Ebendorf was joined by collectors and friends Ron Porter and Joe Price for a discussion about his journey from a midcentury-modernist metalsmith to an artist who creates collages and jewelry using found objects.

IMAGE: *Objects of Affection: Jewelry by Robert Ebendorf From the Porter • Price Collection*, Mint Museum Randolph, April 27, 2024–February 16, 2025.





## Constellation CLT, Interventions, and MINT5pace

### Ongoing

The museum continued its series *Constellation CLT* with three installations throughout the year at Mint Museum Uptown that featured works by local artists Fred Smith, Quynh Vu, and Ajané Williams. *Interventions* at Mint Museum Randolph featured artist Jackie Miland and placed her contemporary works amongst permanent collection installations to spark dialogue between past and present. Designed for artists and curators to bring their visions to life in a museum exhibition space, the Mint5pace on Level 5 was activated by artists and collectives who actualized and installed their own exhibitions to gain perspective and knowledge on the process in a museum setting.

IMAGES: *Constellation CLT*, Mint Museum Uptown, Ongoing. *Scholastic Art Awards 2023*, *Beyond the Red Carpet: Iconic Awards and Artistic Collaborations*, Mint Museum Uptown.





# Grier Heights Youth Arts Program

## Community Engagement

For two decades, the Grier Heights Youth Arts Program has provided more than 500 children in one of Charlotte's most underserved communities a weekly "homebase." With an average of four years in attendance, participants grow their creativity, self-awareness, and mindfulness with art modules and museum visits. Along with exploring the arts, participants navigate subjects, such as health education, history, science, reading, and financial literacy. The program emphasizes developing teen leadership, community service, and college or vocational opportunities.



IMAGES: Grier Heights Youth Arts Program





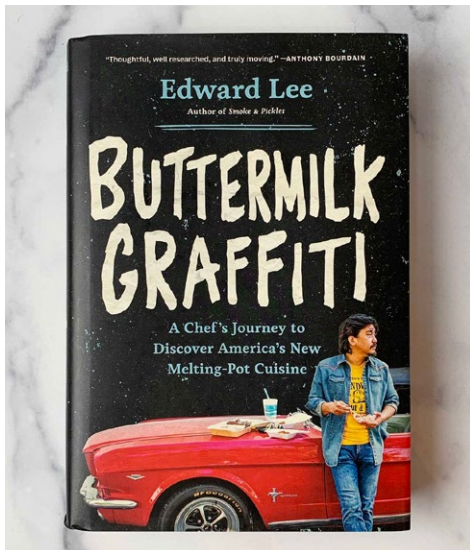
## Mint 2 Move

### Community Engagement

Hosted bi-monthly in the Morrison Atrium at Mint Museum Uptown, Mint 2 Move welcomes visitors, many from the LatinX community, to engage in dance, wellness/fitness, socializing, art activities, and dance lessons. The museum partners with local DJs, bands, small musical groups, and local artists who do live painting during the evening. Due to its success, Mint 2 Move was awarded a \$25,000 Cultural Vision Grant from Charlotte's Arts and Science Council.

IMAGE: Mint 2 Move at Mint Museum Uptown. Photos by Robbie Geyer.





## Mint Museum x Community Reads

### Community Engagement

The Mint Museum joined Charlotte Mecklenburg Library as a Community Read partner. Community Read connects the community through shared reading (or listening) of the same book, plus events surrounding the book themes, with a goal of encouraging dialogue and connection between individuals. The 2024 Community Read theme was food as a cultural and community connector centered around the book “Buttermilk Graffiti” by Edward Lee. Mint Docents created an Art of Reading program as a complementary program.

IMAGES (from top to bottom): Ken Aptekar (American, 1950–). *Charlotte's Charlotte* (detail), 2009, oil on canvas. © Ken Aptekar, All Rights Reserved, 2009. Barbara Pennington (American, 1932–2013). *Selma* (detail) 1965, oil on canvas. Museum purchase with funds provided by Peggy and Bob Culbertson, the Romare Bearden Society, Sally and Russell Robinson, Mary Lou and Jim Babb, and a gift of the Moreland Family.





## ACCESSIBILITY

In May 2024, The Mint Museum received a generous donation from Board of Trustees member Charlotte Wickham, enabling free admission for all children 18 and under for 14 months. This impactful gift was made possible through Charlotte's participation in the Charlotte Ballet's Dancing with the Stars gala and fundraiser, with support from the Mint's dedicated fundraising efforts. This commitment to accessibility aligns with The Mint Museum's ongoing mission to welcome all, reflected in the dozens of free admission days offered throughout the year.

Committed to making the museum comfortable and accessible for all visitors, both museum locations have introduced new Sensory Processing Autism Resource Kits available to check out on a first-come, first-served basis. Packs contain fidget keychains, wiggle seats, headphones, weighted lap pads, and more to enhance the visitor experience for an individual with autism and/or sensory needs.

As part of the museum's strategic plan, the Mint strives to ensure that each facility, program, exhibition, printed materials, and communications methods are accessible to people of all abilities. In collaboration with the city of Charlotte, museum leadership is undergoing a full audit of each facility's ADA improvement needs, along with outside consultant Altura Solutions.

To provide enhanced service to visually impaired visitors, a member of the Learning and Engagement staff was trained to give enhanced audio descriptors in-gallery. Future goals include utilizing sign language interpreters, developing large print guides for all exhibitions and permanent collection galleries, and the continued growth of audio tours.

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IMAGE: Elizabeth Brim (American, 1951-). *A Dark Tale* (detail), 2011, steel (alloy), fiber, and glass. Gift of Founders' Circle, Ltd. in loving memory of Edward Kindall Jones



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