



# THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

June 21, 2022

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## The Mint Museum CEO Shares Details on Picasso Exhibition

Captured by Kim McMillan

Dr. Todd Herman, President and CEO of The Mint Museum, started his presentation with a brief history of The Mint Museum including commonly asked questions about how the museum got its name. Mint Museum Randolph is located in what was the original branch of the United States Mint and opened in 1936 as North Carolina's first art museum. In 2010, the Mint Museum Uptown, opened as part of the Levine Center for the Arts, a cultural campus that includes the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art, the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts and Culture, the Knight Theater, and the Duke Energy Center.

Accessibility is important to people so they can see what art can mean to their lives, Todd explained. As a former college professor, he would often hear from students that they wished they had that understanding before going abroad. Hence, the Mint offers Art 101: A Global Adventure and is open every Wednesday free to the public as an opportunity to learn more about art. Like the Mint, the other nearby cultural organizations are focused on collaboration to create a "cultural living room" where artists and audiences can meet in one place and be exposed to culture.

Todd took Rotarians on a tour of the Mint describing the exhibits currently on display. "Coined in the South" 2022 is featured at the Uptown location and highlights regional artists and gives the community to view what's going on in their own backyard. More than 1,000 artists applied with 70 being juried. The exhibit provides artists the knowledge and experience on how to display and arrange art work. Other exhibits include:

- Constellation CLT, an exhibition series designed to connect visitors to The Mint Museum with artists in our community is currently featuring mixed-media sculptor Lydia Thompson whose primary work is ceramic, but she also creates sculpture out of paper and mixed media.
- *ark of bulrushes* created by Los Angeles-based artist Diedrick Brackens. Known for making colorful textiles, Brackens has developed a process of combining the tactility of yarn with the ethos of storytelling. For this exhibition, the artworks tell timeless narratives about emancipation and remediation through pattern, body, and the power of craft.
- *American Made: Paintings and Sculpture from the DeMell Jacobsen Collection* surveys two centuries of American creativity. The exhibition will feature approximately 100 paintings and eight sculptures presented in thematic sections. It begins with Colonial-era portraits by masters, such as Benjamin West, Thomas Sully, and Sarah Miriam Peale, and then moves on to highlight the development of mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century landscape painting.
- Fashion Reimagined will open December 2022 through July 2023 and will feature contemporary designers drawing inspiration from prior periods.

Coming February 11 and running through May 21, 2023, will be Picasso Landscapes: Out of Bounds featuring 45 Picasso paintings from his time in Paris and Barcelona.

The Mint will be one of three museums in the world to host the exhibition and Charlotte will be the first and only city on the east coast, followed by Cincinnati and Denver.

Media attention will be huge along with dignitaries from France and Spain in attendance, along with an anticipated 100,000 plus visitors. There will be many collaborations with local cultural partners including: Charlotte Symphony, Bechtler Museum of Modern Art, Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts and Culture, Knight Theater, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, and Charlotte Ballet.

Todd shared that actor Steve Martin once wrote a play about Picasso and that Theatre Charlotte will be producing it as part of the Picasso run. JazzArts will be performing some of the jazz that Picasso would have heard during his time in Paris.

Local artists will have the opportunity to respond to “Guernica Today,” Picasso’s painting based on the events of April 27, 1937, when Hitler’s powerful German air force, acting in support of Franco, bombed the village of Guernica in northern Spain. It was history’s first aerial saturation bombing of a civilian population. The Mint will have walls for artists to depict what the painting would look like today.

Also at the same time as the Picasso Landscapes exhibition will be Bearden/Picasso: Rhythms and Reverberations. Todd said that Romare Bearden had the chance to meet Picasso in Paris in the 1950s.

The Mint will also welcome hundreds of school-aged children, and have free admission for CMS art teachers as well as free admission days scattered throughout the exhibition as another effort to make art accessible.

\*A recording of the program is available here: <https://vimeo.com/722697226>  
The speaker presentation begins at 17:25 minutes.