



Dear Friends of Wake The Arts,

As we look forward to the start of a new semester in January 2025, the University is thrilled to host the traveling exhibition **Young, Gifted and Black: The Lumpkin-Boccuzzi Family Collection of Contemporary Art** from January 23 - March 29 in Hanes Gallery. This traveling exhibition highlights artists of African descent whose work explores identity, politics and art history. It gathers and elevates an emerging generation of contemporary artists who are engaging with the work of their predecessors while finding different ways to address the history and meaning of Blackness in their work. The group includes well-known artists David Hammons, Kerry James Marshall, Mickalene Thomas, Henry Taylor and Kara Walker, as well as a younger generation gaining wider recognition, including Tunji Adeniyi-Jones, Sadie Barnette, Cy Gavin, Arcmanoro Niles, Jennifer Packer and others. The survey is organized around four themes — dramatic use of color, reclamation of the color black, materiality (nontraditional materials), and an expanded idea of portraiture.

“I’m thrilled to be partnering with Hanes Art Gallery at Wake Forest University to bring ‘Young, Gifted and Black’ to North Carolina,” said Bernard Lumpkin. “As America wrestles with race and racism, and debates about equality and inclusion in the world take on greater urgency, this exhibition assesses how artists today are shaping the way we think about identity, art and history. The cutting edge, contemporary voices in ‘Young, Gifted and Black’ are a great fit for Hanes Art

Gallery, whose mission is to present challenging and engaging artwork.” The press release, as well as further information about Hanes Gallery and the Lumpkin-Bocuzzi Family Collection of Contemporary Art can be found [here](#). This exhibit was supported in part by the June Sabah ('73, MBA '77) and Allan Shapiro Provost Discretionary Fund.

The Art Department is partnering with Hanes Gallery and has planned three courses around the exhibition, as well as the work of academic programs coordinator and adjunct professor **Ashley Givens** (please reach out to her if you want to learn more ways you can engage with the exhibition!). Similarly, we are excited to continue our collaboration with the Hanes Gallery and its new **assistant director Rachael Hayes**. Since her arrival in November 2023 as gallery manager, Rachael has overseen the student internship program and supported the gallery’s exhibitions and programming. In her new role as assistant director, she will be able to expand her commitment to creating engaging, community-driven art experiences.

Across the arts, faculty and staff work together to support student learning and community engagement. One highlight will be a Secret Artist Series concert on the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday featuring the 2024 GRAMMY-winning vocal ensemble **Tonality**. Founder and Artistic Director Alexander Lloyd Blake (Wake Forest '10) created Tonality to connect people through song, using choral music to stimulate community conversations about important issues in the contemporary world. Tonality will present their “America Will Be” program, a renewed vision for an inclusive America. As is tradition, Wake Forest and Winston-Salem State will celebrate this important holiday together and honor the life and legacy of Dr. King. This year, the WFU Chamber Choir and the WSSU Singing Rams will also join Tonality on stage!

Yours,

Morna O’Neill
Chair, Department of Art



Rachael Hayes
Assistant Director of Hanes Art Gallery

Want to see what's coming up?
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What's Happening



Wrapping up the semester with Wake the Arts

Happy holidays from Wake the Arts! Enjoy this visual encapsulation of our vibrant and art-filled semester to get a taste of some of the excitement and energy around the arts on campus this Fall. See you in the new year!

[Read more](#)



Young, Gifted and Black exhibition comes to Wake Forest

Jan. 23 - March 29, 2025

Hanes Art Gallery

From Jan. 23 - March 29, 2025, Young, Gifted and Black: The Lumpkin-Boccuzzi Family Collection of Contemporary Art will highlight artists of African descent whose work explores identity, politics and art history..

[Read more](#)



Let it Show! Student artwork on sale for the holidays

Through Dec. 13

stArt gallery (Reynolda Village)

There's still time to discover a truly unique gift for someone special by purchasing student art at **Let it Show**, a celebratory exhibition at stArt gallery. The show features student works from class assignments to personal projects in a

variety of media, and it's a great way to support our brilliant students and add to your art collection.

[Read more](#)

Who's Making Things Happen

Performance on the stage and the field: Caiya Hanks ('26)



Theatre minor and women's soccer player Caiya Hanks ('26) was named a **2024 MAC Hermann Semifinalist** — she's only the second player in program history to achieve this honor. The MAC Hermann Trophy is the most coveted individual honor in NCAA Division I soccer and has been awarded annually since 1967. Her performance on the field is justly recognized and it's informed by her performance on the stage. Hear from Caiya about her love for the arts and some game-changing advice she received from Assistant Theatre Professor Michael Kamtman.

Video created by Wake Women's Soccer player Taryn Chance (Class of '26, Sociology Major) and Grace Valley (Class of '25, Critical and Creative Media Major). This video was created as part of Associate Professor Chris Zaluski's COM370 Branded Content class.

[Watch the video](#)

Kimberlyn Rojo-Rojas ('25) awarded Morgan Judd scholarship

Kimberlyn Rojo-Rojas ('25), a member of the WFU Dance Company, was recently awarded the Morgan Judd scholarship. The scholarship, given by the

Morgan Judd Foundation, was created in honor of **Morgan Judd** (1992-2011), who was a talented dancer and a member of the WFU Class of 2015.

[Read more](#)



Wake Women Podcast: Making Others Blossom: How to Ignite the World Around You with Camille Love ('73)

Camille Love ('73) brings beauty, joy, and meaning to the citizens and visitors of Atlanta through the arts. As the Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs, she's committed to cultural justice, believing that the arts should be available and accessible to everyone. Camille will inspire you with her life philosophy and the impact she's made on the community around her.



[Listen on Spotify](#)

Coming in 2025:

- **Young, Gifted and Black**, Hanes Art Gallery (January 23-March 30, 2025)
- **Secret Artists Series: Tonality** (January 20, 2025)
- **Dead Man's Cell Phone**, by Sarah Ruhl (February 7-16, 2025)
- **Screening: "We Were Here: The Untold History of Black Africans in Renaissance Europe"** (March 3, 2025)
- **Screening/Discussion: *Sick-Amour: A Love Story*** (March 3, 2025)
- **Secret Artists Series: Vijay Iyer Trio** (March 6, 2025)
- **30th Anniversary Screening/Discussion: Hoop Dreams** (March 19, 2025)
- **Secret Artists Series: Thomas Dunford** (March 26, 2025)

- **The Tempest, by William Shakespeare** (April 4-13, 2025)
- **Wakeville Interdisciplinary Arts Festival** (April 5, 2025)
- **We Play Together: Music & Gaming** (April 16-19, 2025)
- **Spring Student Choreographic Concert** (April 24-27, 2025)



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