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### **Immerse Yourself in South Carolina Art during Art Day at the State Museum**

*Annual event offers a unique glimpse into South Carolina art and artist with live, interactive opportunities and hands-on activities*

**COLUMBIA, S.C., Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015** – The South Carolina State Museum will celebrate and immerse guests in South Carolina art during Art Day on Saturday, March 7 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. The annual event will feature demonstrations and discussions by South Carolina artists, guided behind-the-scenes tours of the museum’s art storage areas, live music, hands-on activities, art exhibits, live performance art and the opportunity to participate in the destruction of a massive art installation.

Art Day offers a behind-the-scenes glimpse into South Carolina art and artists with live, unique and interactive opportunities throughout the day. Several artists featured in the museum’s current contemporary art exhibit, *Building a Universe*, will be onsite representing their work, including Jonathan Brilliant, who is inviting the public to help “destroy his Universe” by partaking in the breakdown of his massive installation made up of 50,000 coffee stirrers held together by tension. In addition, Jon Prichard and Will Johnson will present their multidisciplinary ritual performance art piece, “Color Code.” Printmaker Gene Speer and ceramist Virginia Scotchie will also be onsite discussing their work. *Building a Universe*, closing Saturday, March 15, features original work from a variety of South Carolina artists whose work reflects the concept of the Universe, astronomy or science in either a direct or conceptual way.

The day will also feature live plein air painting from members of About Face, a group representing a wide range of ages and abilities, and demonstrations of pottery, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics and painting by South Carolina artists. Throughout the day there will be special guided behind-the-scenes tours of the museum’s art storage areas, which include more than 4,000 works of art dating between 1590 to present, live music and a variety of “creation stations” in which guests can participate in hands-on art projects inspired by the State Museum’s collection.

“South Carolina is culturally diverse and has an incredible visual representation that spans more 300 years,” said Paul Matheny, State Museum chief curator of collections. “Art Day is a celebration of the many great artists from our state and the works they have produced and continue to produce every day.”

*Halsey 100*, a new mini-exhibit that examines the work of Charleston artist William Halsey in the 100th anniversary year of his birth will open during Art Day. The exhibit includes original works of art that look into the important career of Halsey, who was a pioneer of contemporary art in the Palmetto State and helped pave the way for other contemporary artists. For those looking to take home a piece of art, there will be a Guy Lipscomb art sale, in which all proceeds will benefit the South Carolina State Museum Foundation.

In addition to the excitement at Art Day, the museum will open its doors the day before to aspiring art students at the second annual College Art Day on Friday, March 6 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Aspiring art students will meet current students and faculty from colleges around the state and hear from alumni applying art degrees in their professions. Advance reservation is required. To sign up, call (803) 898-4999 or email [groupvisits@scmuseum.org](mailto:groupvisits@scmuseum.org).

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Both Art Day and College Art Day are included with museum general admission or membership. Visit [scmuseum.org](http://scmuseum.org) to learn more.

**About the South Carolina State Museum:** *As the state's largest and most comprehensive museum, the South Carolina State Museum offers a unique, entertaining and educational experience to visitors throughout its 225,000 square foot facility located in the heart of downtown Columbia's Congaree Vista. The State Museum is housed in one of its largest artifacts, an 1894 old textile mill full of character and charm. Guests can explore outer space in one of the largest planetariums in the Southeast, watch an interactive 4D movie and look through a vintage telescope in a one-of-a-kind observatory. These opportunities are all in addition to the four floors of South Carolina art, cultural history, natural history and science/technology. Visit [scmuseum.org](http://scmuseum.org) to learn more.*

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**PHOTO CUTLINES:**

**Art Day Demonstrations:** South Carolina art and artists will be featured with an exceptional day of art demonstrations, hands-on activities and much more during Art Day on Saturday, March 7 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the South Carolina State Museum. Visit [scmuseum.org](http://scmuseum.org) to learn more. *Photo courtesy of the S.C. State Museum*

**Art Day Building a Universe:** Join the State Museum and *Building a Universe* artist Jonathan Brilliant at a public dismantling of a massive art installation made up of 50,000 coffee stirrers during Art Day on Saturday, March 7 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Visit [scmuseum.org](http://scmuseum.org) to learn more. *Photo courtesy of the S.C. State Museum*