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## **Celebrate South Carolina Art during Art Day at the State Museum**

*Experience South Carolina art and artists live, with interactive opportunities;  
Special College Art Day for aspiring art students*

**COLUMBIA, S.C., February 24, 2016** – The South Carolina State Museum will celebrate art in South Carolina during Art Day on Saturday, March 5 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and a special College Art Day for high school students on Friday, March 4, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Art Day 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 and art exhibits.

Art Day offers a behind-the-scenes glimpse into South Carolina art and artists with live, unique and interactive opportunities throughout the day. Guests will be able to immerse themselves in the world of art with hands-on activities inspired by artwork from the museum’s collection like silhouette cutting from the Rice family, architectural collage inspired by the work of Robert Courtright, and even a chance to create their own painting inspired by folk art in the museum collection.

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, and a variety of live demonstrations in which guests get an up close and personal look at how artists make their visions come to life. Sculptor Herman Thompson will showcase his one-of-a-kind folk art made from coat hangers. Print maker Gene Speer will be on hand to illustrate the intricate printmaking process. Painters Brian Rego, Alicia Leeke, Rick Wells and Allan Anderson will delight guests with their work on the canvas. Ceramist Virginia Scotchie and her students from the University of South Carolina will offer demonstrations of ceramic art.

The day will also feature live musical entertainment by the Fine Arts Ramblers, from Greenville, SC, whose lineup includes maker of musical instruments, Jim Campbell, an artist featured in the current Carolina Makers exhibit located in the Lipscomb Art Gallery.

In conjunction with Art Day, the museum will open its doors the day before to aspiring art students at the fourth annual College Art Day on Friday, March 4 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. Guests will also be given a personal tour of the Carolina Makers exhibit led by the museum’s curator of art, Paul Matheny. Advance reservation is required for high schools wishing to participate. Parents of high school children whose schools are unable to participate in College Art Day may call the Group Visits Office to register directly. To sign up, call (803) 898-4999 or email [group\\_visits@scmuseum.org](mailto:group_visits@scmuseum.org).

Art Day is 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.*