

Emancipation: The Unfinished Project of Liberation originates from an analysis of sculptor John Quincy Adams Ward's *The Freedman* (1863), one of the first bronze statues of a Black person in the United States. Initially sculpted by Ward before the end of the Civil War, Adams' figure is depicted on the cusp of liberation, having ruptured his bonds, though they are still present as a reminder of his enslavement. The show expands the investigation of how living artists envision freedom today. Seven of today's leading Black artists—Sadie Barnette, Alfred Conteh, Maya Freelon, Hugh Hayden, Letitia Huckaby, Jeffrey Meris, and Sable Elyse Smith—were selected to make visible their perspectives about freedom and imprisonment, identity and personhood, and emancipation and liberation. The commissioned works are supplemented by loans of Civil War era materials and works from Newcomb Art Museum's permanent collection to reveal the elasticity of the concept of emancipation as well as the ways in which this historic period continues to impact the United States.



Cover image: Hugh Hayden, *American Dream*, 2023, 3d-printed plastic, 21 x 21.5 x 23.5 inches. Courtesy of the artist.

Above: Letitia Huckaby, detail of *Ms. Angela and the Baby*, 2022, pigment print on fabric with embroidery, 71 x 41 inches. Courtesy of the artist and Talley Dunn Gallery.

PROGRAMS

All programs are free and open to the public. Sign up for our monthly newsletter at NewcombArtMuseum.Tulane.edu.

Thursday, August 17 Newcomb Art Museum opens to the public featuring *Emancipation: The Unfinished Project of Liberation*

Thursday, September 7 *Emancipation* Opening Reception, 6 – 8pm

Exhibition co-curators Maurita N. Poole, PhD, and Margaret C. Adler will be in conversation with multimedia artist Sadie Barnette about liberatory spaces and the artist's process. Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will follow the discussion. *The museum will be open prior to the reception, so arrive early for a closer view of the exhibition.*

Wednesday, September 13 Newcomb Pottery Tour, 12pm

Sierra Polisar, Head of Collections Management, will lead a tour about the Newcomb Pottery Enterprise. This program is one of two opportunities to see the collection up close during the fall semester. Space is limited; email spolisar@tulane.edu to reserve a space.

Tuesday, September 26 Lecture by Hugh Hayden, 6pm Tulane's Art Department welcomes artist Hugh Hayden for the Fall 2023 Sandra Garrard Memorial Lecture, an annual program focused on the most critical issues in contemporary art. Hayden will discuss his artistic practice and commissioned work in the *Emancipation* exhibition. The museum will be open in the evening, and light refreshments follow the lecture.



Shana M. griffin
Photo: Jeremy Tauriac

which is marked by the violence of racial slavery and etched in the abolition geographies of New Orleans. griffin will discuss a selection of work from the exhibition, interrogate themes and absences explored in the show, and engage participants in a walking excursion in the area surrounding Newcomb Art Museum.

Friday, October 20 Homecoming Open House at NAM, 10am – 2:30pm

Our annual Open House is open to all. This is a great opportunity to have a close look at our permanent collection from 10am – 12pm, attend student and staff led tours of *Emancipation* at 11am, and enjoy activities for kids and families from 11am – 1:30pm. *Please note: Tulane will*

Saturday, October 14 Walking tour with Shana M. griffin, 1pm

Join us for a guided tour and conversation with feminist activist, researcher, abolitionist, and artist Shana M. griffin about the *Emancipation* exhibition and the landscape of Tulane University's campus,

restrict all campus parking this day. Free 2-hour parking in the neighborhood off campus is available on a first-come basis.

Thursday, November 2 Letitia Huckaby in Conversation, 6pm

Emancipation artist Letitia Huckaby and Assistant Curator Kendyll Gross will discuss the exhibition with an emphasis on the interconnection between family histories, national history, and collective memory in the artist's works. This program is supported in part by the Dorothy Beckemeyer Skau Art and Music Fund.

Saturday, December 2 Closing Reception and Youth Art Pop-up, 12 – 3pm

Enjoy a last look at *Emancipation: The Unfinished Project of Liberation* before its final week with a tour by Executive Director and exhibition co-curator Maurita N. Poole, PhD. Additionally, there will be a pop-up exhibition of artworks by New Orleans-based youth that have been inspired by selected exhibition themes. Light refreshments are included.

Further information about the submission process for the Youth Art exhibition will be available on our website soon, and in our upcoming newsletter. Please sign up for our newsletter at bit.ly/44zOAYY. Interested teachers and caregivers can also email museum@tulane.edu for details.