The Mint Museum to showcase work of 25 local artists, three artist collectives in upcoming exhibition *It Takes a Village*

**Charlotte, North Carolina (May 21, 2021)** —In celebration of the vibrant, grassroots art happening throughout Charlotte, The Mint Museum has organized *It Takes a Village: Charlotte Artist Collectives*, an exhibition presenting works of art from three of the city's innovative artist collectives: Goodyear Arts, BlkMrktClt, and Brand the Moth. The exhibition runs June 12–September 12 at Mint Museum Randolph.

More than 25 artists from the three collectives will have works of art on display in the Jones-Dwelle-Belk galleries at Mint Museum Randolph. *It Takes a Village* is curated by Jen Sudul Edwards, PhD, chief curator and curator of contemporary art at The Mint Museum, and the works are by artists of diverse backgrounds, many born in countries outside the United States, using materials from oil paint to woven fabric, collage to ceramics.

“Charlotte's legacy of artist collectives has always struck me as exceptional,” says Sudul Edwards. “We have an extraordinary number of creatives coalescing into communities that celebrate local artists' works on a larger, louder platform, and that also work together to form this highly productive, engaging creative machine.”

In addition, Brand the Moth and BlkMrktClt are creating their own installations in Mint Museum Uptown's Level 5 expansion space, and Goodyear Arts has a series of performances planned on the front lawn of Mint Museum Randolph. The takeover installations are generously sponsored by Lovebolt.

*It Takes a Village* continues to support the Mint's commitment to promoting artists of color. Many of the artists included in the exhibition had a part in painting the *Black Lives Matter* street mural in uptown Charlotte in summer 2020. Some, including artists Owl and de'Angelo Dia, have been featured in the Mint's *Constellation CLT* series, which showcases works by local artists in Mint Museum Uptown’s public spaces. And many of the *It Takes a Village* artists were also involved with LOCAL/STREET, a three-day pop-up exhibition organized by BlkMrktClt co-founder Carla Aaron-Lopez in March at Mint Museum Randolph featuring the work of more than 40 local artists of color and street artists who are helping define the city's visual identity.

“As we emerge from COVID isolation, it's important to celebrate and support the art and artists that are part of our community,” says Todd A. Herman, PhD, president and CEO of The Mint Museum. “And what better way than to use gallery spaces to highlight the creative energy emanating from artists in some of Charlotte's art collectives.”

Special thanks to Charlotte is Creative for its media partnership for this exhibition, and ongoing support of art and artists in the Queen City.

**ABOUT THE COLLECTIVES**

*Goodyear Arts* is an artist-led residency program that supports visual, performing, and literary artists annually by providing time, space, money, and community in which to create. Alumni have formed a collective and continue using free studio space and volunteering their time to support the organization. *goodyeararts.com*

*BlkMrktClt* was created to provide a safe creative environment for artists of color. The organization, located at Camp North End, focuses on developing emerging artists and creating a more diverse and robust community. *blkmrktclt.com*

*Brand the Moth* uses public art programs and projects as a vehicle to spark creativity and connection, provides a trusting space for artists to grow, offers educational opportunities for professionals, and produces projects that reflect and empower the community around them. *brandthemoth.com*
Artists from many of Charlotte’s artist collectives, including some who are featured in it Takes a Village were integral to the creation of the Black Lives Matter street mural in uptown Charlotte in June 2020.

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The Mint Museum

Established in 1936 as North Carolina’s first art museum, The Mint Museum is a leading, innovative cultural institution and museum of international art and design. With two locations — Mint Museum Randolph in the heart of Eastover and Mint Museum Uptown at Levine Center for the Arts — the Mint boasts one of the largest collections in the Southeast and is committed to engaging and inspiring members of the global community.

Lovebolt

The Lovebolt mission is to end systemic racism in the U.S. in one generation, and Lovebolt nation is the community of supercharged justice seekers working to make this happen.

Charlotte is Creative

Charlotte Is Creative's programs and initiatives are designed to fund, promote, connect and advocate for our city's creative individuals and organizations, and to champion collaboration between them and the larger business community. More information at CharlottelsCreative.com.

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Brand the Moth, along with Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department and the Men’s Shelter of Charlotte, created murals on both sides of the 16th Street bridge in uptown Charlotte. 2. Artist Owl. 3. Artist and Brand the Moth co-founder Sam Guzzie 4. Coloring book-style murals in NoDa’s McGill Rose Garden painted by volunteers from Union and UMAR. Photo by Madison McCarley. 5. Artist Irisol Gonzalez’s colorful capstone mural brightens the side of Palmer’s Arcade 6. Artist Hannah Fairweather.
GOODYEAR ARTS