



Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts News Release

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New Exhibition, *History Refused to Die*, Opens at MMFA on Saturday, March 14 Opening Reception, Thursday, March 19

Montgomery, AL— The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts is pleased to announce the opening of *History Refused to Die* an exhibition devoted to the work of 15 Alabama Black artists whose works tell a powerful story of the lives, history, and culture of Blacks in Alabama. Not formally trained as artists, and sometimes referred to as “self-taught”, this art is gaining increasing attention in the American art world as its relationship to the larger art history and culture of the United States in the 20th century becomes more apparent.

The objects in this exhibition address historical themes central to the lives of these artists—slavery, rural life, the transition to urban culture, and the Civil Rights movement. Unlike most traditional art, this work utilizes materials that were a part and parcel of their lives—scraps of fabric in pieced quilts, bits of abandoned metal and glass as sculptural assemblages. They made these objects for reasons that are as distinctive as the artists themselves, and, like every visual artist, they seek to communicate and make tangible their views and expressions of personal and cultural history.

The public is invited to an opening reception for the exhibition that will be held at the MMFA on Thursday, March 19, at 6:00 P.M., immediately followed by a lecture by Leslie King-Hammond, Director, Center for Race and Culture at the Maryland Institute College of Art.

History Refused to Die is organized by the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, Alabama, in conjunction with the Souls Grown Deep Foundation, and Tinwood, LLC, Atlanta, Georgia. A related exhibition will be on view at the Alabama Contemporary Art Center in Mobile, Alabama, from March 14 through December 20.

The exhibition and education programs for *History Refused to Die* are sponsored by Regions Bank, and the Central Alabama Community Foundation; co-sponsored by the Alabama Humanities Foundation, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and Harmon Dennis Bradshaw, Inc.

The MMFA, a department of the City of Montgomery, is supported by funds from the City of Montgomery, and the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts Association. Programs are made possible, in part, by a grant from the Alabama State Council on the Arts. Exhibition programs are supported by a grant from the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

