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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – GRANT AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT

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WEATHERSPOON ART MUSEUM RECEIVES $80,000 WARHOL FOUNDATION GRANT, $10,000 FIRESTONE GRAHAM AWARD

JULY 17, 2012 – The Weatherspoon Art Museum at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro has been awarded grants by two national foundations: $80,000 from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and $10,000 from the Elizabeth Firestone Graham Foundation.

The Warhol Foundation grant will support two major exhibitions: Diana Al-Hadid (February 9 – May 5, 2013) and Nancy Rubins: Fifteen Years of Flying High (February 10 – May 6, 2014). The Firestone Graham Foundation award will support the catalogue for Diana Al-Hadid. Both projects enhance and expand upon the Weatherspoon’s long reputation for producing thought-provoking exhibitions.

“I was absolutely ecstatic to hear the news,” said Xandra Eden, Curator of Exhibitions of the Weatherspoon, “We are truly honored by the Warhol and Firestone Graham Foundation’s recognition of our commitment to presenting the best and most innovative contemporary art. “

Al-Hadid’s exhibition in Spring 2013 will be her first solo museum survey and will be accompanied by the first monograph on her work. Rubin’s exhibition in Spring 2014 will be the first to consider the relationships between the artist’s work on paper and her
sculpture, as well as other aspects of her art that have been given little attention. “The support of the Warhol and Firestone Graham Foundations means the world to us. With dwindling resources over the past four years, the backing of organizations such as these is essential for us to continue to present unique exhibitions of the work of seminal artists such as Al-Hadid and Rubins,” notes Nancy Doll, Director.

About the Warhol Foundation

The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts was established in 1987 to foster innovative artistic expression and the creative process by encouraging and supporting cultural organizations that in turn, directly or indirectly, support artists and their work. The Foundation values the contribution these organizations make to artists and audiences and to society as a whole by supporting, exhibiting and interpreting a broad spectrum of contemporary artistic practice.

About the Firestone Graham Foundation

The Elizabeth Firestone Graham Foundation is dedicated to fostering awareness and appreciation of contemporary visual art, particularly through the support of catalogues and other publications that document exhibitions of work by emerging or under-recognized artists.


About the Weatherspoon Art Museum

Mission
The Weatherspoon Art Museum at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro acquires, preserves, exhibits, and interprets modern and contemporary art for the benefit of its multiple audiences, including university, community, regional, and beyond. Through these activities, the museum recognizes its paramount role of public service, and enriches the lives of diverse individuals by fostering an informed appreciation and understanding of the visual arts and their relationship to the world in which we live.

History
The Weatherspoon Art Museum at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro was founded by Gregory Ivy in 1941 and is the earliest of any art facilities within the UNC system. The museum was founded as a resource for the campus, community, and region and its early leadership developed an emphasis—maintained to this day—on presenting and acquiring modern and contemporary works of art. A 1950 bequest from the renowned collection of Claribel and Etta Cone, which included prints and bronzes by Henri Matisse and other works on paper by American and European modernists, helped to establish the Weatherspoon's permanent collection. Other prescient acquisitions during Ivy’s tenure included a 1951 suspended mobile by Alexander Calder, Woman by Willem de Kooning, a pivotal work in the artist's career that was purchased in 1954, and the first drawings by Eva Hesse and Robert Smithson to enter a museum collection.

In 1989, the museum moved into its present location in The Anne and Benjamin Cone Building designed by the architectural firm Mitchell Giurgula. The museum has six galleries and a
sculpture courtyard with over 17,000 square feet of exhibition space. The American Association of Museums accredited the Weatherspoon in 1995 and renewed its accreditation in 2005.

**Collections + Exhibitions**
The permanent collection of the Weatherspoon Art Museum is considered to be one of the foremost of its kind in the Southeast. It represents all major art movements from the beginning of the 20th century to the present. Of the nearly 6,000 works in the collection are pieces by such prominent figures as Sol LeWitt, Robert Mangold, Cindy Sherman, Al Held, Alex Katz, Henry Tanner, Louise Nevelson, Mark di Suvero, Deborah Butterfield, and Robert Rauschenberg. The museum regularly lends to major exhibitions nationally and internationally.

The Weatherspoon also is known for its adventurous and innovative exhibition program. Through a dynamic annual calendar of fifteen to eighteen exhibitions and a multi-disciplinary educational program for audiences of all ages, the museum provides an opportunity for audiences to consider artistic, cultural, and social issues of our time and enriches the life of our university, community, and region.

**Weatherspoon Art Museum**
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