

# International African American Museum in Charleston, SC, Offers New Exhibition

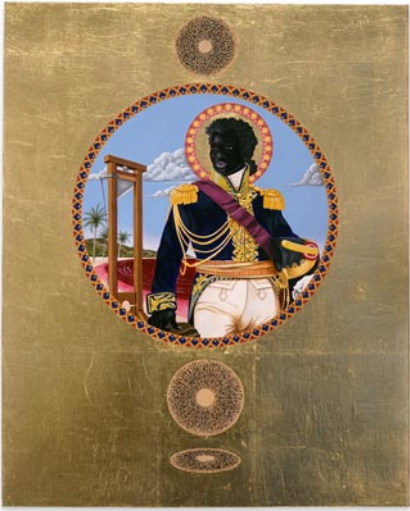
The International African American Museum in Charleston, SC, is presenting *re/Defined: Creative Expressions of Blackness from the Diaspora*, on view through Jan. 4, 2026.

Across the Atlantic World - from West Africa and Europe to the Americas - Black creatives have been at the forefront of defining what it means to be Black. *re/Defined* examines how artists from the US and the broader African Diaspora have challenged stereotypes by preserving African traditions, resisting systemic oppression, and activating audiences. Through the mediums of fine art, adornment, music, and storytelling, this exhibition showcases how Black creatives have shaped cultural narratives and used their work to advocate for the communities to which they belong.



Richard Nattoo, “River Mumma II”, 2024, Water-colour, Pen & Ink, Water from the Rio Grande and Benta River, Jamaica on Canvas. 39 x 50 in | 99 x 127 cm

The African Diaspora - formed through the Transatlantic slave trade and following migrations - has been a powerful force in shaping and sharing cultural traditions, ideas, and aesthetics across the globe. Throughout the Diaspora, Black artists have resisted assimilation by preserving African cultures and transforming traditional West African creative expressions into new, evolving representations of culture. Artistic expression has also provided a way for Black creatives to occupy space and use their platforms to fight racism and other legacies of colonialism and slavery. Artists took control of racialized portrayals of Blackness and countered racist stereotypes



Mark Steven Greenfield, “Dessalines”, 2022, Acrylic and Gold Leaf on Wood Panel, 20” X 16”

by developing new imagery, advocating for racial pride, and expanding the representation of Black people.

Through these creative expressions, African art, music, and style echo, showing how Black culture is interconnected and continually exchanged across the Diaspora.

The IAAM, which sits at the site of Gadsden’s Wharf – one of the nation’s most prolific former slave trading ports – includes nine core exhibition galleries and a special exhibition gallery, as well as a “floating” gallery that weaves contemporary art throughout the museum. The museum will open with more than 700 artifacts dating from the 17th century to contemporary objects, alongside 1000 image and media collection pieces – all of which help connect the African American journey to its roots and connections to African and African Diaspora communities and cultures. The museum also houses the Center for Family History, a world-class genealogy and ancestry resource center, which began hosting genealogy classes and workshops in 2020.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 843/872-5352 or visit ([iaamuseum.org](http://iaamuseum.org)).

# City of North Charleston, SC, Features Works by Lauren Ridenour and Chrys Corn Goodman

The City of North Charleston will present two new exhibition including, *Looking Up*, featuring mixed media works by Lauren Ridenour (Charleston, SC) and *Seen & Unseen*, featuring mixed media works by Chrys Corn Goodman (Alexander, NC), both on view at the Park Circle Gallery in North Charleston, SC, from July 2-26, 2025. A reception will be held on July 25, from 5-7pm.

Lauren Ridenour’s work delves deeply into the complexities of mental health, self-reflection, and human connection. Known for a bold, raw approach, the Charleston-based artist uses mixed media to explore daily thoughts, fears, and the layered nuances of the human experience. In her exhibit *Looking Up*, Ridenour presents her visual journal of becoming a mother - the darkness and the slow, steady shift toward light. This collection captures the in-between moments of losing and finding herself again, of becoming someone new while still holding on to who she’s always been. “It’s about perspective, resilience, and finally seeing the world in technicolor,” Ridenour explains.

Ridenour has always had a love and passion for creating, but it wasn’t until 2019 on a back-packing trip through Asia and Australia that she decided to pursue art full time. Since then she has produced murals and shown her work in numerous solo and group exhibitions throughout the Carolinas. In 2023, Ridenour completed an ambitious series that led to her book containing 365 illustrations, each one serving as a daily



Work by Chrys Corn Goodman

journal. This body of work reflects the artist’s commitment to authenticity, capturing the spectrum of emotions experienced over time.


Driven by the belief that art can reduce isolation and foster empathy, Ridenour draws from mundane moments and uses honesty as a central theme, aiming to create an energetic and immersive experience that resonates on a deeply personal level. She currently works from her studio at Redux Contemporary Art Center in Charleston, SC.

Music, words, figures, botanical symbolism, spiritual concepts, and emotions often work together to inspire Chrys Corn Goodman’s work. The North Carolina-based artist tends to paint ‘in a minor key’ - reflecting both brokenness and hope. Her exhibit,

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## Halsey - McCallum Studio

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*Growing* by William Halsey, 1992  
oil pastel and paint stick on paper, 18 x 24 inches



Painting by Corrie McCallum

For information: David Halsey • 843.813.7542 • [dhalsey@mac.com](mailto:dhalsey@mac.com)

Both artists are recipients of the Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Award

# Stand with Ukraine

If you are able here is a list of the Top-Rated Charities to help the Ukrainian Relief Effort.

From MSNBC Special: [UkraineAnsweringTheCall.com](http://UkraineAnsweringTheCall.com)

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<u>Medical Supplies</u> Americares Project C.U.R.E. World Vision MAP International Heart to Heart International UNICEF USA MedShare Direct Relief Project HOPE Operation USA	<u>Emergency Housing</u> World Vision UNICEF USA A Chance In Life World Help Islamic Relief USA GlobalGiving American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee Catholic Relief Services
<u>Non-Medical Supplies</u> Operation USA Mercy Corps Americares Matthew 25: Ministries MedShare International Relief Teams World Help Project HOPE American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee Operation Blessing International GlobalGiving ActionAid USA UNICEF USA Save the Children Episcopal Relief & Development Catholic Relief Services World Hope International Good360	<u>Long-Term Assistance</u> Center for Disaster Philanthropy Catholic Relief Services World Help Operation Blessing International
	<u>Other (cash/cash vouchers, logistic supply)</u> World Vision American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee Islamic Relief USA Heart to Heart International Church World Service ActionAid USA Americares Samaritan's Purse UNICEF USA