



Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center in Asheville Offers Exhibit Focused on the Farm at Black Mountain College

The Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center in Asheville, NC, will present *The Farm at Black Mountain College*, on view from Sept. 27 through Jan. 11, 2025. A reception will be held on Oct. 25, from 7-9pm.

The story of Black Mountain College (BMC) has grown to mythical proportions since the liberal arts school officially closed its doors in 1957. Countless books, exhibitions, and artworks have been created to capture what it was like to live and learn at this singular college and to chart its unparalleled cultural legacy. But before this exhibition and accompanying book, nobody had written about the farm at BMC in any great detail.

Built on more than a decade's worth of deep, original archival research,

The Farm at Black Mountain College exhibition constitutes a deep new history of BMC. By focusing on the farm, the exhibition sidesteps the popular paradigm of approaching BMC through its famous faculty and students, and instead offers a new cast of characters, one that includes mostly students, women, and farmers. It spotlights the importance of collaboration, both on campus among students, faculty, and faculty families, and in the community with farmers and organizations in nearby cities and towns. Finally, the exhibition shows what happens when communal living is no longer communal, and offers a detailed account of the final dark days of the college, a dramatic and often dangerous story.

The opening reception and a keynote lecture will take place in conjunction with BMCM+AC's annual ReVIEWING BMC conference hosted at UNC Asheville. Exhibition themes will correspond to co-curator David Silver's book *The Farm at Black Mountain College*, to be published in partnership with Atelier Editions.

The exhibition was curated by David Silver and Bruce Johansen.

David Silver is a professor and chair of environmental studies at the University of San Francisco. He teaches classes on urban agriculture, hyperlocal food systems, and food, culture, and storytelling.

Bruce Johansen is a researcher, writer, and editor based in Minneapolis. He has published writing on themes including



Kenelm Winslow, "untitled photograph", student working on college farm, c. 1936-38. Kenelm Winslow, Fotofolio, collection of Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center, Gift of Kenelm Winslow, Jr.

American and LGBTQ history in national and regional publications.

Founded in 1933, Black Mountain College was one of the leading experimental liberal art schools in America until its closure in 1957. After the Bauhaus in Germany closed due to mounting antagonism from the Nazi Party, Josef and Anni Albers readily accepted an offer to join the Black Mountain College faculty. During their 16-year tenure in North Carolina, the Alberses helped model the college's interdisciplinary curriculum on that of the Bauhaus, attracting an unmatched roster of teachers and students including R. Buckminster Fuller, Elaine and Willem de Kooning, John Cage, Merce Cunningham, Mary Caroline (M.C.) Richards, and Robert Rauschenberg.

Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center (BMCM+AC) was founded in 1993 to celebrate the history of Black Mountain College as a forerunner in progressive interdisciplinary education and to celebrate its extraordinary impact on modern and contemporary art, dance, theater, music, and performance.

The Museum is committed to educating the public about the history of Black Mountain College and promoting awareness of its extensive legacy through exhibitions, publications, lectures, films, seminars, and oral histories. Through our permanent collection, special exhibitions, publications, and research archive, we provide access to historical materials related to the College and its influence on the field.

BMCM+AC provides a forum for multifaceted programming in a dynamic

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environment in downtown Asheville, North Carolina. Our goal is to provide a gathering point for people from a variety of backgrounds to interact – integrating art, ideas, and discourse.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings or visit (blackmountaincollege.org).

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