



ALBANY MUSEUM OF ART

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### DEAN MITCHELL EXHIBITION OPENS JAN 9 AT ALBANY MUSEUM OF ART

The Tampa Artist Is Known for his Figurative Works, Landscapes and Still Lifes

**[For Release Dec 30, 2019 – Albany, GA]** — During his four-decade long career, Dean Mitchell, of Tampa, Fla., has become known for his figurative works, landscapes and still lifes. *Looking at America and Painting How I Want, What I Want and How I See It*, an exhibition of works by the Pittsburgh, Pa., native, opens **Thursday, Jan 9, 2020** in the East Gallery of the Albany Museum of Art.

The exhibition will continue through **March 28, 2020**.

"I was happy to be introduced to Dean Mitchell's work through the AMA Exhibitions Committee," Curator Didi Dunphy said. She describes Mitchell as "a skilled artist engaged in the romance of the land through paint and brush, yet challenging the very nature of that subject." He is well accomplished in egg temperas, oils and pastels.

"His poetic urban and rural scenes are rich in tone, but vibrate with the desolation of so much of America's landscapes," Dunphy said. "Beautifully rendered, deprived neighborhoods and structures—populated by an occasional figure in these vacant environs—remind us of diminishing humanity."

Mitchell, who earned his MFA from the Columbus College of Art & Design in Columbus, Ohio, maintains a deep connection with Quincy, Fla., a small industrial city where he was raised and inspired by his grandmother.

"I'm looking for freedom regardless of painting styles and labels imposed on artists in regards to race and ethnic origins," Mitchell says, "total freedom to explore my full potential as an artist."

AMA Executive Director Andrew James Wulf, Ph.D., said that "Mitchell's work hums with a deep respect for the humanity and heartbeat of his subjects, portraits of the real people and places he knows. His courage to paint so originally what he sees around him reveals unvarnished truths we all share. To experience his work is a gift and a necessity."

Dunphy notes that Mitchell's own story "is one of unusual pursuit and admirable accomplishments."

"An African-American man growing up in a depressed small city during the Civil Rights Movement of the '60s and '70s with the vision of being a fine artist was not the common path," she said. "He speaks of his grandmother pushing him to not to waver in his pursuit, encouraging him to attend his art studies.

"Since then, his work has been collected by many prestigious museums and has received numerous accolades, including meeting the Obamas and being considered as a portrait artist for the 44th president. A small snapshot of Mitchell at the White House hangs on the wall at his Quincy location—aply named after his grandmother—the Marie Brooks Gallery."

Mitchell has been featured in publications including *The New York Times*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, *Southwest Art*, *Art of the West*, *American Artist*, *Western Art Collector*, *Artists Magazine*, *Fine Art International*, *Art News*, *The Art of Watercolour Magazine*, *Fine Art Connoisseur Magazine*, and *The Outwin: American Portraiture Today* at the National Portrait Gallery.

His art can be found at Autry National Center, Los Angeles; Arkansas Art Center, Little Rock, Ark.; Canton Museum of Art, Canton, Ohio; Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Mo.; Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, Mo.; Margaret Harwell Art Museum, Poplar Bluff, Mo.; Rockwell Museum, Corning, N.Y.; Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland Park, Kansas; Beach Museum of Art, Manhattan, Kansas; Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix, Ariz.; Gadsden Art Center, Quincy, Fla.; Whitney Western Art Museum, Cody, Wyo.; Mississippi Art Museum, Jackson, Miss.; St. Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, Mo.; Library of Congress, and the Quanhua Art Museum in China.

In his long career, Mitchell has garnered more than 600 awards, including the T.H. Saunders International Artists in watercolor competition in London, England; the American Watercolor Society Gold and Silver Medals; the National Watercolor Society Masters Award; the Allied Artist of American Gold Medal in Watercolor and Oil, and the Thomas Moran Award from the Salmagundi Club in New York.

### **CURRENT AMA EXHIBITIONS**

- *Origami Variations*, works by Gloria Garfinkel, is in the Haley Gallery through Feb 8, 2020.
- *Smoke Bombs and Border Crossings*, photography by Nancy Newberry, is in the East Gallery through Jan 4, 2020.
- *Georgia Artists Guild of Albany*, 26<sup>th</sup> annual juried exhibition, is in the West Gallery through Jan 4, 2020.

### **UPCOMING AMA EXHIBITIONS**

- *Looking at America and Painting How I Want, What I Want and How I See It*, works by Dean Mitchell, will be in the East Gallery Jan 9-March 28, 2020.
- *Do Not Hand Me Over to the Impure Whiteness of Noon: A Hemings Elegy*, works by Yanique Norman, will be in the West Gallery Jan 9-March 28, 2020.

### **ABOUT THE ALBANY MUSEUM OF ART**

The Albany Museum of Art is located at 311 Meadowlark Drive in Albany, Georgia, adjacent to Albany State University West Campus just off Gillionville Road. The museum is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. The Albany Museum of Art is open 10 am through 5 pm Tuesdays through Fridays and noon until 5 pm on Saturdays. Admission is free.

For more information about the AMA please visit our website, [www.albanymuseum.com](http://www.albanymuseum.com) or call 229.439.8400. Be sure to follow the @AlbanyArtMuseum on Twitter, AlbanyMuseum on Instagram and AlbanyMuseumOfArt on Facebook.

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