

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT

Lizz Biswell, Halsey Institute

BiswellL@cofc.edu

843.953.5659 [w]

843.412.0576 [c]

High-res images available [here](#).

THE HALSEY INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART PRESENTS BUTCH ANTHONY: INSIDE/OUT

On view: January 17 – February 29, 2020

CHARLESTON, SC – The [Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art](#) at the College of Charleston presents an exhibition of all large assemblage pieces by Butch Anthony entitled *Inside/Out*. The exhibition is on view from January 17 to February 29, 2020 at the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art. There will be an opening reception on Friday, January 17 from 6:30PM – 8:00PM. Halsey Institute members and College of Charleston students, faculty, and staff receive free admission to the opening reception. All non-members will be charged \$5 admission for the event. The Halsey Institute’s gallery hours are Monday – Saturday, 11:00AM to 4:00PM, and 11:00AM to 7:00PM on Thursdays, closed on Sundays. The Halsey Institute’s galleries are open to the public and admission is free.

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Inside/Out will consist of new images, assemblages, and installations created specifically for our galleries. As a multi-faceted self-taught artist, Butch Anthony creates works that investigate and appropriate images from the American vernacular. His practice includes painting X-ray like skeletons on top of antique portraits in elaborate, often gilded frames. An avid collector of unique and bizarre objects, he created the [Museum of Wonder](#), a modern-day cabinet of curiosities filled with art, artifacts, and antiques including the world’s largest gallstone and an actual footprint from Sasquatch. Anthony also hosts the Possum Trot Auction, a weekly junk and art auction (featured on television’s *American Pickers*) on his 80-acre parcel of land that has been in his family for generations. He has also built The Museum of Wonder Drive-Thru, the first drive-through art and antiques gallery, also on his property. In addition to making and selling art, building unique roadside attractions, and collecting found objects to incorporate into his own artwork, Anthony built his own house and several outbuildings which have been featured in the *New York Times*.

Though Anthony’s work emanates from the folk art or vernacular idiom, his works are unmistakably original in concept and execution. The term “folk art” is generally applied to traditional media such as wood carving, quilt-making, functional pottery, weaving—items that are passed down from generation to generation. Anthony’s work often has a charming immediacy because of the familiarity of the selected materials, yet this surface

appeal is often undermined by the conceptual premise. Some images evince a biting sarcasm or ironic wit, while others poke fun at our consumerist society. There are several layers of meaning embedded in Anthony's work. For a few of the pieces in this exhibition, the artist hired a Chinese painter to create 5 x 7-foot enlargements of appropriated images he sent. Anthony then reworks the surface of these commissioned paintings, melding appropriation and global commerce with insouciant graffiti-like embellishments. Now, many of these paintings become more elaborate with the addition of bones, artifacts, and shadow boxes that amplify the visual and conceptual presence of the piece.

As a sculptor, Anthony's work often employs the detritus of our disposable society. He has become adept at creating imaginative combinations that subtly comment on the human condition. These assemblages then gain strength by being seen in the context of his other works, creating a kind of chain reaction that reinforces his primary message.

This exhibition brings together several of Anthony's creative explorations over the past few years. Singular portraits, assemblage objects, and installations combine to create a working model of the inside of Anthony's mind.

This exhibition is paired with [Coulter Fussell: The Raw Materials of Escape](#). *Butch Anthony: Inside/Out* is organized by Mark Sloan, director and chief curator at the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art.

EVENTS DURING INSIDE/OUT

All events take place in the Halsey Institute's galleries.

Opening Reception

Friday, January 17, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Halsey Institute members and College of Charleston students, faculty, and staff receive free admission to the opening reception. All non-members will be charged \$5 admission for the event.

Join the Halsey Institute staff, Advisory Board, and interns in a celebration of our newest exhibition. Sponsored by Icebox Bar Services.

Halsey Talks: Arts & Craft

Tuesday, January 28, 6:30 PM

Free admission and open to the public

Halsey Talks are an ongoing series of roundtable discussions on intriguing concepts in art. In the revered halls of art museums around the world, high art forms are usually confined to specific media: oil on canvas, marble, bronze, and so on. But are these the only materials that we consider to be fine art?

Membership Morning

Friday, January 31, 9:00 AM

Free admission for all Halsey Institute members

Join the Halsey Institute's curators and your fellow members for a casual morning of good coffee and conversations. Sponsored by Counter Culture Coffee.

Family Day!

Sunday, February 9, 12:00PM – 4:00PM

Halsey Institute members receive free admission. All non-member families will be charged \$5 admission for the event.

Join the Halsey Institute staff for a fun afternoon of art-making, family-focused guided tours of the exhibition, snacks and more!

Curator-led Tour of *Inside/Out*

Thursday, February 27, 6:00 PM

Free admission for all Halsey Institute members

Join the Halsey Institute's curators for an exclusive guided tour of the exhibition. Explore the exhibitions, get insider knowledge, meet other Halsey Institute lovers!

Artist Talk: Butch Anthony

Saturday, February 29, 2:00 PM

Free admission and open to the public

Exhibiting artist Butch Anthony will speak with visitors about his exhibition, art-making process, and life story.

ABOUT BUTCH ANTHONY

Butch Anthony is a multi-faceted self-taught artist from Seale, Alabama. At fourteen he was building birdhouses and stuffing his own taxidermy. His first building, a little log cabin on his grandfather's farm, would eventually become his shop. He has spent decades building the Museum of Wonder, a walk-through cabinet of curiosities. Started in the 1970s as Butch's taxidermy shop and artifact room, the [Museum of Wonder](#) is now filled with art, artifacts, and antiques including the world's largest gallstone. Butch also hosts the Possum Trot Auction, a weekly junk and art auction on his 80-acre parcel of land in Seale, Alabama. He has also built the Museum of Mystery, the first drive-through art and antiques gallery (pictured right). In addition to making and selling art, building bizarre roadside attractions, and collecting found objects to incorporate into his own artwork, Butch contributes to Auburn University's [Rural Studio](#) design + build program.

Butch Anthony's website is <http://www.museumofwonder.com/>

ABOUT THE HALSEY INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art at the College of Charleston provides a multidisciplinary laboratory for the production, presentation, interpretation, and dissemination of ideas by innovative visual artists from around the world. As a non-collecting museum, we create meaningful interactions between adventurous artists and diverse communities within a context that emphasizes the historical, social, and cultural importance of the art



of our time.

Location: The Marion and Wayland H. Cato Jr. Center for the Arts, College of Charleston
161 Calhoun Street, 1st Floor (corner of St. Philip & Calhoun Streets), Charleston, SC 29401

Parking: Available at metered spaces on surrounding streets and in the St. Philip and George Street Garages

Gallery hours: Monday – Saturday, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM, open until 7:00 PM on Thursdays during exhibitions, or by appointment. Closed on Sundays. FREE ADMISSION and OPEN to the public.

Tours: Free guided group tours are offered through the Halsey Institute’s Looking to See program.

Email HalseyTours@cofc.edu for inquiries. Free, staff-led guided tours are available at 2:00 PM every Saturday during exhibitions unless superseded by a program.

For more information, call 843.953.4422, visit halsey.cofc.edu, or e-mail halsey@cofc.edu

Social media accounts: [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#).

###