



**The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art Announces *La Vaughn Belle: When the Land Meets the Body***

**Open August 25-December 9, 2023**

**Charleston, S.C.-** The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art at the College of Charleston School of the Arts has announced *When the Land Meets the Body* by renowned artist La Vaughn Belle, on display until December 9.

In this exhibition, multidisciplinary artist [La Vaughn Belle](#) seeks to explore the relationship of history, land, and the bodies between them, and considers that who we are is a product of historical processes that are often represented in the landscape. *When the Land Meets the Body* is Belle's first solo museum exhibition, and will present a selection of existing and new works. This work includes Belle's *Storm (How to Imagine the Tropicalia as Monumental)*, which features large-scale paintings that piece together cut, torn, and burned paper to create cartographies of shifting landscapes and seascapes to explore the turbulent histories that have shaped the Caribbean. An expanded presentation of the series *For Those of Us Who Live At The Shoreline* considers liminal social and environmental spaces. Belle's *Swarm* series creates a physical intervention of cuts and burns in reproductions of colonial imagery that seek to emphasize the Black bodies captured in the photographs, and transform the violence endemic in them. The exhibition also includes previously unseen watercolors from the *Every Island is an Effort at Memory* series, displayed within a mural installation. Lastly, the Halsey Institute commissioned Belle to create a new video work centered on the Lowcountry landscape; *Effluvia* offers a lyrical essay on the marshlands surrounding Charleston, SC that were the site of rice cultivation by enslaved Africans and African Americans.

Borrowing from elements of architecture, history, and archeology, Belle, who is currently based in the U.S. Virgin Islands, creates narratives that challenge colonial hierarchies and invisibility through her artistic practices including painting, photography, video and more. She has exhibited her work in many notable institutions across the globe including the National Photography Museum and the Vestsjælland Museum in Denmark. She is the co-creator of [I Am Queen Mary](#), the groundbreaking monument located in Copenhagen, which was featured in over 100 media outlets including *The New York Times*, *Politiken*, *VICE*, *BBC Radio* and *Le Monde*.

Please see [HERE](#) for images of La Vaughn Belle's *When the Land Meets the Body*. For more information on upcoming events, tours and memberships, please visit [halsey.cofc.edu](http://halsey.cofc.edu).

## **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:** 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM on Monday through Saturday and 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM on Thursdays. The galleries are 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](mailto: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.

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

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