



COLLEGE OF
CHARLESTON
SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art Announces *Demond Melancon: As Any Means Are Necessary*, Open August 23-December 7

Charleston, S.C.- [The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art](#) at the College of Charleston School of the Arts proudly presents the first solo museum exhibition of innovative artist Demond Melancon, [As Any Means Are Necessary](#), to be displayed from **August 23 to December 7**.

New Orleans-based artist [Demond Melancon](#), also known as Big Chief Demond Melancon of the Young Seminole Hunters, works solely with a needle and thread to sew glass beads onto canvas, beginning this practice in 1992 when he first became part of a more than 200-year-old culture known as the [Black Masking Culture of New Orleans](#). He is well known for creating [massive suits](#) as a **Black Masker**, notably seen during **Mardi Gras**, which are sculptural forms based on the size of his body and are composed of intricate, hand-sewn beadwork revealing a collective visual narrative. In 2017, Melancon pioneered an emerging contemporary art practice using the same beading techniques he's refined over the past 30 years in the Black Masking Culture. *Demond Melancon: As Any Means Are Necessary* will feature suit aprons, [beaded portraits](#) and other new works, including a new sculpture of an experimental "spirit suit" that is a smaller-scale companion to the suit that Melancon will mask in 2025.

Melancon is widely known for his appearance in [All on a Mardi Gras Day: Big Chief Demond of the Young Seminole Hunters](#). This intimate documentary touches on the social and cultural significance of the Black Masking Culture of New Orleans and how the city is everchanging. It was accepted into over 40 film festivals in 12 countries and nominated for Best Short Film at the [Berlinale](#) and Best Documentary Short at the [Tribeca Film Festival](#), two of the most prestigious film festivals in the world. With key grand prize wins at three Oscar-qualifying film festivals in Seattle, Rhode Island and Australia, the documentary short went on to be qualified for an Academy Award in 2020. A film screening will be held at the Halsey on **Tuesday, November 19**.

The Halsey Institute will host an opening reception for the new exhibition on **Friday, August 23, from 6:30-8:00 p.m.** The event is open to the public and free to members; upon entry, a \$5 donation is suggested for all not-yet members. For a more in-depth look into the work, the Halsey will host a **free Artist Talk with Melancon on Saturday, August 24, at 2 p.m.**

Please see [HERE](#) for images of *Demond Melancon: As Any Means Are Necessary*.

For more information on upcoming events, including tours and memberships, visit 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 a.m.-4 p.m. on Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m.-7 p.m. 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 for inquiries.

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

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Follow Up

The Halsey will celebrate its **40th anniversary on Saturday, October 26**, in conjunction with the exhibition. The event will feature a parade on the College of Charleston's campus, followed by a banner installation created by past and future exhibition artists alongside local Charleston artists in the historic Cistern Garden. **Early bird promo: \$15 off for members and not-yet member tickets are available now through August 31 [HERE](#) using access code HICA15.**