



10/23/19

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## **LASM to Feature Journey of Local Artist Randell Henry**

**BATON ROUGE** - As a teacher, mentor, and professional artist, Randell Henry has been an icon of the Baton Rouge art scene for over thirty years. An exhibition that marks Henry's passage through his lengthy career titled ***Soulful Journey: Randell Henry*** will open **November 2** in the Louisiana Art & Science Museum's Soupçon Gallery. The selection on display will demonstrate the evolution of Henry's unique style of richly-colored mixed-media collage paintings. The exhibition will be on view through May 31, 2020.

Nearly twenty artworks by Henry dating from the early 1980s through 2019 will be included in *Soulful Journey*. His art-making process can be likened to that of a jazz musician, forming imagery by improvising with a unique language of bold colors, textures, and shapes similar to those found in traditional African art. Henry is best known for his handling of collage, defined as artworks composed of different types of materials glued onto a ground. In this exhibition, visitors will have the opportunity to voyage with the artist through the development of his personal style.

"Randell Henry is recognized well beyond Baton Rouge for his unique collage work," said Elizabeth Weinstein, LASM's Director of Interpretation & Chief Curator. "The artworks included in this intimate show were selected to pinpoint major influences and points of departure along Henry's artistic journey. Together, the artworks demonstrate how his artistic vision has been shaped over the years."

A Baton Rouge native, Henry decided to become an artist at a young age. His talent was spotted early on, and he was encouraged by his teachers at Crestworth Junior High School and later Scotlandville High School. He earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1979 from Southern University, where he studied under sculptors Frank Hayden and Al Lavergne; painters Harold Cureau, Jean-Paul Hubbard, and Van Chambers; and art historian Dr. Eloise Johnson. In 1982, he completed his Master of Fine Arts at Louisiana State University; among his professors there were painters Harvey Sherman Harris, Ed Pramuk, and Robert Warrens. Henry's artwork has been exhibited extensively since 1980 in Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, and New York, as well as internationally in Denmark, Ghana, and Liberia.

"Henry's personal story is a reminder of the importance of educators in helping students to form connections that prepare them for lifelong success" said Serena Pandos, President & Executive Director of LASM. "Our Museum welcomes over 98,000 school program participants from across 41 parishes and five counties in Mississippi. For many of these children, LASM is the first and sometimes only museum

they ever have the opportunity to visit. Our promise to our community supporters and education partners is to deliver this invaluable educational experience to all students who visit LASM.”

Henry credits his own success in large part to the guidance he received from teachers along the way; he too joined the ranks of educators. For twenty-seven years, Henry has been nurturing and encouraging art students as an Associate Professor of Visual Art at Southern University.

“Randell Henry is well-respected in the arts community of Baton Rouge, not only for his merits as a professional artist and educator, but also for his kind demeanor and steady support of his fellow artists over the years,” said Weinstein. “He has contributed much towards the growth and vibrancy of Baton Rouge’s cultural community. LASM is honored to spotlight his career.”

A reception with the artist will be held on **November 7 at 5:30 PM**. Admission is free for members and \$12 for non-members. For more information about this exhibition and associated events, visit [lasm.org](http://lasm.org).

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#### **Images:**

Image 1 - A teacher, mentor, and professional artist, Randell Henry has been an icon of the Baton Rouge art scene for over thirty years. An exhibition that marks Henry’s passage through his lengthy career titled ***Soulful Journey: Randell Henry*** will open **November 2** in the Louisiana Art & Science Museum’s Soupçon Gallery.

Image 2 - Randell Henry, *Soulful Journey*, 2017, collage on canvas, 8 x 6 inches. Image courtesy of the artist.

#### **About the Louisiana Art & Science Museum**

A nonprofit organization housed on the banks of the Mississippi River in downtown Baton Rouge, the Louisiana Art & Science Museum enhances the understanding and appreciation of art and science for general audiences and students by presenting unique, educational and entertaining experiences that encourage discovery, inspire creativity, and foster the pursuit of knowledge. More information about the Art & Science Museum is available at [lasm.org](http://lasm.org).

The Louisiana Art & Science Museum is supported in part by a grant from the Louisiana Division of the Arts, Office of Cultural Development, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, in cooperation with the Louisiana State Arts Council. Funding has also been provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, Art Works.