

# weatherspoon art museum

January 22, 2013

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information or press images, contact:  
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## Exhibition Announcement

### **DIANA AL-HADID**

February 9 – May 5, 2013

### **Public Artist Talk, Opening Reception**

Friday, February 8, 6-9pm (see below for more information)

The **Weatherspoon Art Museum** at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro is pleased to present a major solo exhibition, ***Diana Al-Hadid***, from February 9 – May 5, 2013. The exhibition highlights the artist's unique exploration of art historical references to examine sculptural and pictorial space.

Born in Syria and raised in Ohio, the artist's haunting works convey a world turned upside down. Her recent large-scale gypsum and metal sculptures, small bronzes, and drawings are inspired by myriad sources, including Italian and Northern Renaissance painting, Gothic architecture, and Hellenistic sculpture. Known for her innovative methods that extend pictorial devices used to convey perspective into three-dimensional space, her works tread on new terrain for contemporary sculpture at the same time as they recover influential visual histories. The exhibition represents the artist's first museum survey in the U.S. and the publication will be the artist's first monograph.

*The exhibition is organized by Xandra Eden, Curator of Exhibitions, and will be accompanied by a catalogue published by Hatje Cantz featuring essays by Eden and art critic Gregory Volk. The*

*project is made possible through the support of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the Elizabeth Firestone Graham Foundation, and ART\Islam, a project of the Thomas S. Kenan Institute for the Arts at the UNC School of the Arts.*

### **Artist's Bio**

[Diana Al-Hadid](#) (b. 1981, Aleppo, Syria; lives and works in Brooklyn) received a BFA from Kent State University, MFA from Virginia Commonwealth University, and attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. Recent solo exhibitions include Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond (2012); the University of Texas Art Center, Austin (2012); La Conservera, Murcia, Spain (2011); and Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2010). Her work has been included in numerous international group exhibitions including, *Invisible Cities*, Mass MoCA, North Adams (2012); *Unveiled: New Art from the Middle East*, The Saatchi Gallery, London (2009), and the *9th Sharjah Biennial*, UAE (2009). She is a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellow in Sculpture, United States Artists Rockefeller Fellow, and a recipient of Joan Mitchell Foundation, Tiffany Foundation and Pollock-Krasner Foundation awards. Al-Hadid is represented by Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York.

Image (at top): Diana Al-Hadid, *Trace of a Fictional Third*, 2011, steel, wood, polymer gypsum, fiberglass and paint, 120 x 240 x 156 in. The George Economou Collection, Amaroussion, Greece. Image courtesy of Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York. Photo: Jason Wyche, New York.

### **Related Education and Public Programming**

#### **Diana Al-Hadid: Members Preview, Artist Talk and Opening Reception**

**Friday, February 8, 6-9 pm**

**Private Members Preview, 5-6 pm**, members only, reservations required

**Public Artist Talk, 6 pm**, reservations required

**Public Reception, 7-9 pm**, no reservations required

Join us for a special evening celebrating the opening of the Diana Al-Hadid exhibition. The evening will begin with a Members Preview at 5pm where WAM Members can enjoy a special cocktail reception and preview the exhibition before it opens to the public. A Public Artist Talk\* with Diana Al-Hadid will be held at 6pm in the museum auditorium and will be followed by a public reception hosted by the Weatherspoon Art Museum Association from 7-9pm. Reservations are required for the Members Preview and the Public Artist Talk. Reserve online at: <http://weatherspoon.uncg.edu/eventcalendar/>, or contact Cathy Rogers at [csrogers@uncg.edu](mailto:csrogers@uncg.edu) or (336) 256-1450 no later than Tuesday, Feb 5, 2013. Please note, seating for the Public Artist Talk is limited.

#### **WAMJam**

**Thursday, February 14, 6 pm**

UNCG Jazz Studies majors, led by professor Chad Eby, return to WAM Jam to perform their own compositions inspired by works by artist Diana Al-Hadid. **Free.**

#### **Family Night: Imaginary Landscapes/Mystical Places**

**Thursday, February 21, 5 pm**

Create an imaginary landscape, explore the exhibition with WAM's Teen Art Guides, and enjoy a jazz performance by Chad Eby and UNCG jazz students. **Free.**

#### **Art for Lunch: Curator Talk**

**Wednesday, February 27, 12 pm**

Xandra Eden provides an in-depth curator's walk-thru. **Free.**

#### **Noon @ the 'Spoon Public Tour**

**Tuesday, March 12, 12 pm**

A 20-minute docent-led tour. **Free.**

**Guest Lecture: Gregory Volk**  
**Friday, March 22, 4 pm**

New York-based art critic and curator, Gregory Volk, discusses Diana Al-Hadid's work in the context of international contemporary art. Volk is associate professor in the departments of sculpture and painting at Virginia Commonwealth University. **Free.**

For a complete, updated list of related programs, visit <http://weatherspoon.uncg.edu>.

## **About the Weatherspoon Art Museum**

### **Mission**

The Weatherspoon Art Museum at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro acquires, preserves, exhibits, and interprets modern and contemporary art for the benefit of its multiple audiences, including university, community, regional, and beyond. Through these activities, the museum recognizes its paramount role of public service, and enriches the lives of diverse individuals by fostering an informed appreciation and understanding of the visual arts and their relationship to the world in which we live.

### **History**

The **Weatherspoon Art Museum** at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro was founded by Gregory Ivy in 1941 and is the earliest of any art facilities within the UNC system. The museum was founded as a resource for the campus, community, and region and its early leadership developed an emphasis—maintained to this day—on presenting and acquiring modern and contemporary works of art. A 1950 bequest from the renowned collection of Claribel and Etta Cone, which included prints and bronzes by Henri Matisse and other works on paper by American and European modernists, helped to establish the Weatherspoon's permanent collection. Other prescient acquisitions during Ivy's tenure included a 1951 suspended mobile by Alexander Calder, *Woman* by Willem de Kooning, a pivotal work in the artist's career that was purchased in 1954, and the first drawings by Eva Hesse and Robert Rauschenberg to enter a museum collection. In 1989, the museum moved into its present location in The Anne and Benjamin Cone building designed by the architectural firm Mitchell Giurgola. The museum has six galleries and a sculpture courtyard with over 17,000 square feet of exhibition space. The American Association of Museums accredited the Weatherspoon in 1995 and renewed its accreditation in 2005.

### **Collections + Exhibitions**

The permanent collection of the Weatherspoon Art Museum is considered to be one of the foremost of its kind in the Southeast. It represents all major art movements from the beginning of the 20th century to the present. Of the nearly 6,000 works in the collection are pieces by such prominent figures as Sol LeWitt, Robert Mangold, Cindy Sherman, Al Held, Alex Katz, Henry Tanner, Louise Nevelson, Mark di Suvero, Deborah Butterfield, and Robert Rauschenberg. The museum regularly lends to major exhibitions nationally and internationally.

The Weatherspoon also is known for its adventurous and innovative exhibition program. Through a dynamic annual calendar of fifteen to eighteen exhibitions and a multi-disciplinary educational program for audiences of all ages, the museum provides an opportunity for audiences to consider artistic, cultural, and social issues of our time and enriches the life of our university, community, and region.

### **Weatherspoon Art Museum**

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
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